# Typhoon kills 57 in Camiguin, Visayas

STORY IN ACROSS, PAGE A12

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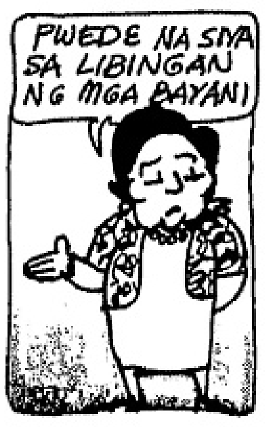
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2001 ★★ 44 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 333 P15



## Imelda gets gov't pension

**BY M. MARFIL**

IS IMELDA Marcos down to her last million?

Yesterday, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes personally handed

IMELDA/ A5

# Nida Blanca stabbed dead

THE DEFINING movie for the award-winning actress was her title role in Waray-waray (1953) where she played a lovable toughie. Part of the lyrics of its theme song goes: "Waray-waray, ready to die/Waray-waray until death."

*More photos on Page A4*

## Cops say someone 'very angry' may be behind killing

**BY GERALD G. LACUARTA, PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND LUIGE DEL PUERTO**

**MORE than one person could have attacked actress Nida Blanca, who suffered 13 stab wounds including a fatal wound in the neck.**

But Chief Supt. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, head of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, said that while this was indicated in the autopsy, available evidence could not as yet prove that the attack was carried out in a fit of rage, as suggested by the number of stab wounds.

And the fact that Blanca's earrings, bracelets, other jewelry and a still undetermined amount of cash are missing "does not necessarily mean that (robbery) was the motive," said Edmund Arugay, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Metro Manila unit.

But Blanca's family said that the pieces of jewelry she was wearing were intact.

"But if we confirm that there had been previous robberies (in the building where her body was found), then that is a good lead," Arugay said.

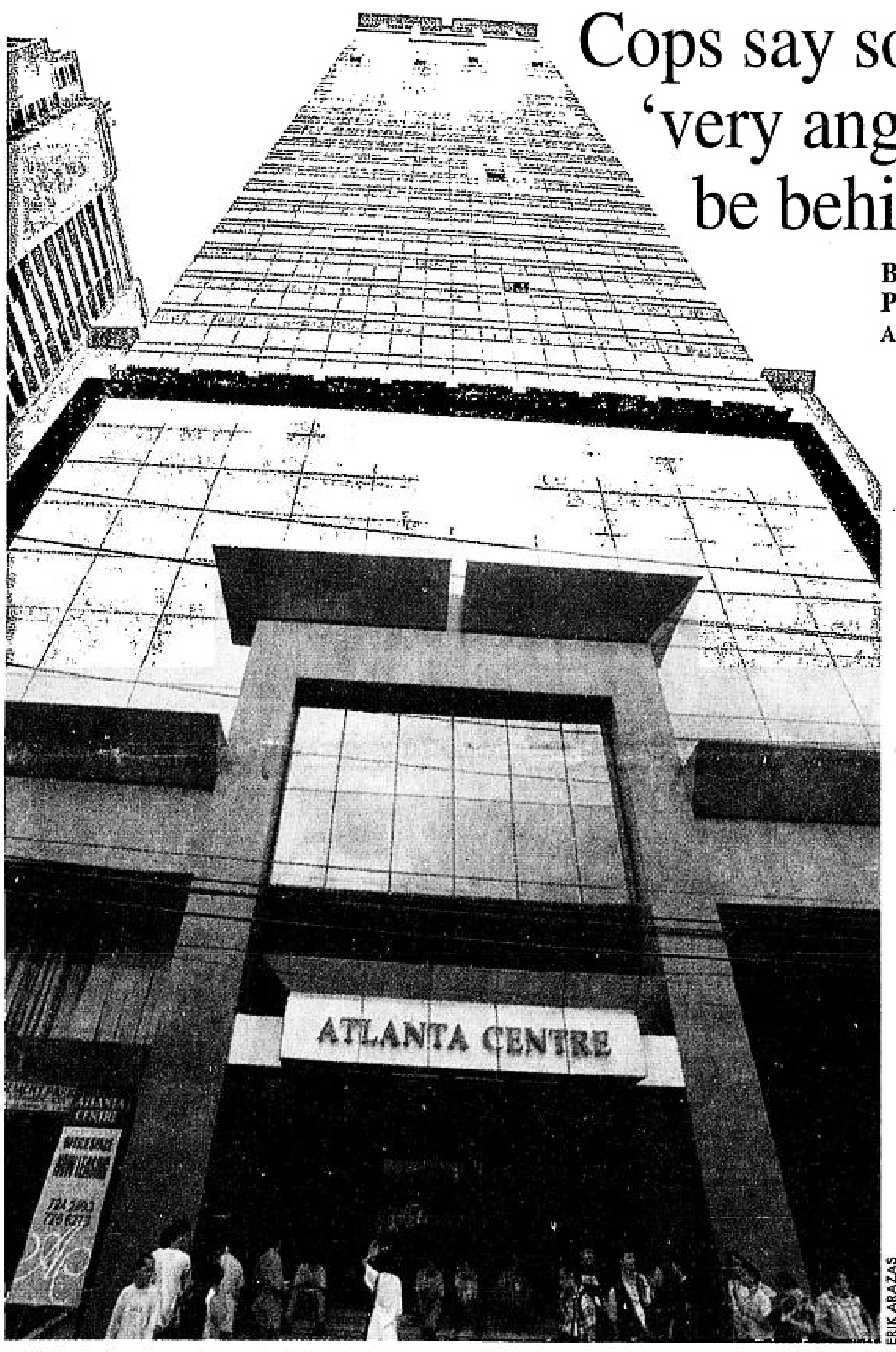
The family does not believe in the police's robbery theory.

"This act was performed most probably by someone who was very angry with her, or by a drug addict," said Dr. Maximo Reyes, medico-legal chief of the NBI, who performed the autopsy.

But Blanca's husband, Rod Lauren Strunk, said his wife had no enemy that he knew of.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered PNP chief Director General

NIDA/ A4



ERIK ARAZAS

SCENE of the crime: Atlanta building in Greenhills, San Juan, where Nida Blanca held office at the MTRCB on the 33rd floor. Parking space for its officials is on the sixth floor where Blanca was found.

## 'She doesn't deserve a violent ending . . .'

### 50 years in show biz, 163 films

**BY LEAH SALTERIO**

"BENEATH her comic ways and frivolous attitude, she was strict and a little *mataray* (snooty). I think she lasted in this business because she minded her own business. She didn't sow intrigues."

That's award-winning director Maryo J. de los Reyes talking about the icon that was Nida Blanca, whose violent death has particularly shocked members of show biz.

He recalled that apart from the professional behavior that she constantly displayed, her fondness for sardines rubbed off on her colleagues.

"It was always a delight having her on the set," De los Reyes told the INQUIRER yesterday. "While we were filming (the upcoming) 'Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka,' she converted all of us to eating Victoria's Sardines. She would bring several cans of sardines on the set and share them with us, especially if the food

SHE/ A5

HUSBAND Rod Lauren Strunk: We were soul mates. My life has practically stopped.

# 'They even asked for a referral,' says victim

**BY MA. CERES P. DOYO**

*Editor's Note: This series marks the debut of the Inquirer's Investigative Team ( I-Team).*

*Some names and details have been altered to hide the identity of the victims and their families. Cases in court are pending, but some kidnappers are still at large.*

**KIDNAPPING 2001**
**An I-TEAM Report**

( *First of four parts* )

WHEN they were about to release her, the kidnappers asked 21-year-old Fay to recommend another victim. "They asked me who I thought they could abduct next!" she says now.

The brazenness, the horror of the kidnapping experience, sometimes gets buried under the pressure of alarming statistics. But the toll on the victims cannot be adequately graphed by kidnap-for-ransom incidence or solution efficiency rates alone.

A father of two victims, his voice breaking, says it best, as he declares, "After this, our family will never be the same again. Never."

Even the telling leaves them scarred.

Ivana Wei, 21, shakes while recounting the ordeal she and her younger sister Ave suffered at the hands of kidnappers. They were held for six days in a remote place south of Metro Manila accessible only through a muddy trail.

Lily, a mother of three, strings together the events before her 5-year-old daughter and her nanny were abducted on the way home from school. When she reaches the scene where they are found dead, she breaks into sobs in the arms of her brother.

Fay was held for two days in a decrepit hut outside Manila. But instead of cowering in terror, she tried her best to pick up clues on where she was and who her kidnappers were.

THEY/ A14

# Population wipes out RP growth

THE COUNTRY'S population is growing so quickly that it is wiping out the effect of economic growth rates, officials said yesterday.

At 2.3 percent, the Philippines, Southeast Asia's only Catholic nation, has one of the world's highest population growth rates this year compared with 1.3 percent globally, according to a United Nations report released yesterday.

"On a 3.3-percent (GDP) growth rate expected this year, it's not scintillating because it's only a one-percent growth in real per capita income," said Dante Canlas, director general of the National Economic Development Authority (Neda).

"(This) underscores the importance of population management programs in advancing our national development objectives," Canlas told a seminar on population.

"On the average we would like to see something like 5- or 6-percent growth in GDP every year to be able to improve the growth rate of real per-capita income," Canlas said.

POPULATION/ A5

# Court excuses Erap from attending trial

**BY VOLT CONTRERAS**

JOSEPH Estrada and son Jinggoy were excused from attending their plunder trial yesterday after the deposed President complained of an eye inflammation and of "depression" over the gruesome murder of an old friend, actress Nida Blanca.

Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the Sandiganbayan's third division, allowed the Estradas to leave the court building shortly after the hearing started at 2 p.m.

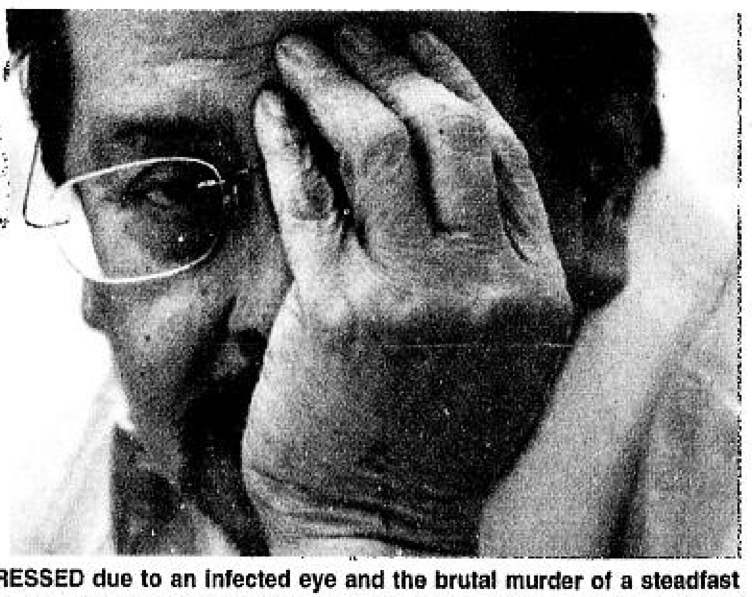
State prosecutors posed no objections but maintained that the Estradas should only be excused in yesterday's proceedings.

Escorted from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), the Estradas arrived at the Sandiganbayan at around 1:30 p.m.

But the former President stayed at the holding center at the 2nd Floor and only Jinggoy went up the courtroom at the 3rd. With the Estradas were two ophthalmologists from the VMMC—Drs. Lilia Lorenzana and Lito Arillo.

Jose Flaminiano, one of the defense lawyers, immediately ex-

COURT/ A14



DEPRESSED due to an infected eye and the brutal murder of a steadfast friend, Nida Blanca, ex-President Estrada is excused from attending his plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan on Wednesday. AP

# Ombudsman gets back at accuser

**BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC**

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto is getting back at a lawyer who filed an impeachment complaint against him on Tuesday with the House of Representatives.

Desierto yesterday ordered investigators of the Office of the Ombudsman to prepare criminal charges against Ernesto Francisco, who personally admitted handing him P500,000 in "goodwill money" on Sept. 10, 1997 at the Westin

OMBUDSMAN/ A15

# Second FRONT PAGE

YAN NA SANA ANG KAILANGAN NG MINDANAO

## Oil firms cut prices

A NEW round of oil price cuts today by the country's top refiners has slashed the cost of gasoline by 31 centavos per liter and of diesel and kerosene by 20 centavos per liter.

New oil player Seaoil Petroleum Corp., however, stole the thunder from industry leaders Petron, Pilipinas Shell and Caltex Philippines when it changed its price boards as early as 10 p.m. last night.

The majors' price adjustment did not take effect until very early this morning.

Petron's gasoline will now cost from P17 to P18 per liter while diesel prices will average P13 to P13.50 per liter.

Shell's and Caltex's gasoline prices will now range between P16 and P18. The diesel sold at Caltex and Shell will be priced between P13 and P13.60 per liter.

The earlier-than-expected price rollback is the first this month and the eighth this year.

Last October, the oil companies, citing improved market conditions the previous August and September, cut back prices twice. The rollback averaged 60 centavos and 55 centavos per liter.

*Christine A. Gaylican*

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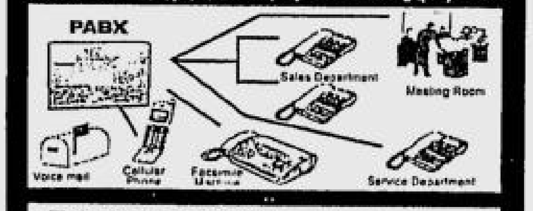

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ARMM ELECTIONS

# Gloria backs Misuari rival

By Carlito Pablo

**PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed a "healing team" to carry the government standard in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao elections on Nov. 26.**

But her hectic schedule prevents the President from personally campaigning for the administration's candidates in the ARMM polls, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

The Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police have reported that election preparations were in place and that it was " all systems go" for the ARMM elections, Tiglao said.

But whether the elections will push through will also depend on how fast Congress acts on a bill seeking to postpone the polls to next May.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said HB 3584 can be set for floor deliberations on Nov. 13 but noted that there was no counterpart bill in the upper chamber.

### Doctor team

The administration team is led by two doctors: physician Parouk Hussin who is running for governor, and Wahid Mutilan, a doctor of Islamic theology, the vice gubernatorial candidate.

The candidates "personify not only the integrity of leadership that we are all looking for but (also) the effectiveness and good governance that will bring peace and progress in Muslim Mindanao," the President said.

Hussin is the head of the 15-man executive committee of the Moro National Liberation Front which ousted founding chair Nur Misuari, the current ARMM governor.

Mutilan is the president of the Ulama League, which groups the country's Islamic religious teachers, and is a former governor of Lanao del Sur.

The President met Hussin, Mutilan and more than 100 political leaders from the ARMM provinces over dinner at Malacañang last Tuesday immediately after her arrival from Brunei.

Quoting a Mindanao leader, Tiglao said "this is in a way a healing team for the ARMM."

### No other candidate

"We have no other administration candidate," Ms Macapagal clarified, dispelling rumors of backroom negotiations for other so-called strong contenders.

Criticized for having picked low-key candidates, the President said Hussin and Mutilan "personified the integrity we are looking for" to address the "notorious stereotype of alleged failure of autonomous institutions."

The President pointed out that the Organization of Islamic Conference was "watching closely" the ARMM elections and they are "keenly waiting for a credible ARMM governor."

Among those who attended the meeting were former Sen. Santanina Rasul, Sulu Gov. Yusuf Jikiri, Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar and former Maguindanao Gov. Zacarias Candao.

The Nov. 26 elections make up the last component of the 1996 peace accord signed by the then Misuari-led MNLF with the Ramos administration.

### Nur not running

Misuari did not file his candidacy and wants the elections stopped.

Accusing the government of reneging on the terms of the peace accord, he has threatened to take up again the MNLF's armed struggle for an independent Muslim state in Mindanao.

Tiglao, who with other administration officials, have downplayed Misuari's threats, yesterday said Misuari's posturing was "not a major concern for us."

Misuari may be in a "very emotional mood right now" because he is sure to lose his post, Tiglao said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the government was gathering sworn statements from various witnesses to determine if Misuari had uttered seditious statements in the Bangsamoro assembly where he is reported to have issued the secession threat.

Former President Fidel Ramos yesterday said it was unbecoming for Misuari to continue issuing political statements that border on the seditious.

Ramos told Misuari to tone down his rhetoric regarding the government's alleged violations of the peace accord. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño and Norman Bordadora, Metro Manila, and Samira Ali Gutoc, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

## Nur: I don't need MNLF integrees to fight gov't

JOLO, Sulu—ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari yesterday said the more than 5,000 members of the Moro National Liberation Front who have been integrated into the military have ceased to become his concern.

"It's their own lookout now, I don't have anything to do with them (anymore) since they are now identified with the Philippine government," said the ousted MNLF founding chair who has reportedly threatened to renew his armed rebellion for a Islamic state in Mindanao.

But Misuari said he was confident that majority of his followers who are now with the military have remained loyal to the MNLF.

Even without full support from the integrees, Misuari said the overwhelming support he has received for his renewed vision was enough to shake the Armed Forces and the central government.

In place of the integrees, he would have the Moro youth, Misuari said.

"Generation after generation, our people will continue this fight," he said.

The government would need "one million soldiers to contain this new struggle," he said.

The military meanwhile said there was no need to conduct a loyalty check among the integrees.

"Their sincerity and commitment to serve the people and the government is intact. I made my research three years ago and it was proven true and correct," said Col. Francisco Gudani, Southern Command spokesperson.

But he conceded that there might be a few among the integrees who might go back to Misuari. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Gov't was helpless in Seattle–Palace

By Carlito Pablo
and Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG said yesterday the government was in no position to help the two Filipino pilots who were denied entry into the United States on suspicion of being bio-terrorists.

"Even if the government wanted to help them, we have no consulate there (in Seattle, Washington)," Palace spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Philippine authorities were not alerted early enough about the plight of Wel S. Come and Bernie L. Crisostomo, who were detained by US immigration authorities on their arrival at the Seattle-Tacoma airport on Oct. 31.

Someone had apparently tipped off US authorities that the two were carrying the anthrax bacteria, the spread of which is causing widespread fear in America.

The two were released and deported to Manila the next day even after US authorities determined the tip was a hoax.

Come and Crisostomo complained they did not receive any assistance from Philippine authorities even after they returned to the country.

Tiglao said there was not enough time for the Department of Foreign Affairs to react to events.

Besides, he said, initial reports gave conflicts accounts about the identities of the two Filipinos.

Tiglao said, however, the DFA is studying what measures it could take in the aftermath of the incident.

The two pilots were on their way to Kansas City for a three-day refresher course on flying private planes before going on to waiting jobs in Nigeria.

Their Nigerian employer only gave them one-way tickets, however, prompting US authorities to bar their entry because they had no exit tickets.

The DFA said yesterday it would meet with the two Filipino pilots and try to help them if it still could.

Foreign Undersecretary Vic Lecaros, department spokesperson, said: "We will get their side of the story and see what else we can do for them."

Lecaros said there was nothing the DFA could do for the pilots during their ordeal because they were on their way back to the Philippines when the department learned about their plight.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said American authorities told her the reason the two were deported was that they gave conflicting statements about themselves and their business.

Two congressmen yesterday denounced the shabby treatment the two Filipinos got from US authorities.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House foreign affairs committee, said the deportation of Come and Crisostomo showed the "low regard Americans have for… Filipinos."

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco said the detention of the two was "arbitrary, unjust and incomprehensible."

He lashed out at Philippine Embassy officials in the US for failing to help the two when they were being grilled by US authorities. ***With Christine O. Avendaño***

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## Pimentel hits drug tests for drivers

By C. Balana

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday called for the immediate revocation of a Land Transportation Office order requiring compulsory drug-testing for motorists before they can secure or renew their driver's licenses.

Pimentel said the required drug-testing, which will cost P300 for each applicant, is no guarantee against the use of prohibited drugs by the license holders.

"According to medical sources, all that a drug-user has to do is to refrain from taking shabu or marijuana 3 to 5 days before undergoing the LTO test to show that he is negative for drugs," he said.

The senator said that drug testing is not that effective in weeding out drug users among drivers.

Because of this, there was no justification for the continued imposition of this requirement, he said.

Pimentel also said that without a fail-safe guarantee that the mandatory drug-testing will prevent licensed drivers from using drugs, the LTO scheme could be regarded as a crude way of fleecing motorists to enable LTO to rake in more revenues.

"Making drivers incur an expense of P300 whenever they renew their LTO license every three years is not only an ineffective but also an arbitrary and oppressive way of addressing the problem of drug-use," he said.

According to Pimentel, the real beneficiaries of the new scheme were the owners and operators of medical clinics that are authorized by the LTO to conduct the drug test.

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal welcomes Bahrain's Prime Minister Khalifa in Malacañang.

EDWIN BACASMAS

# *RP, Bahrain sign economic accords*

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met Bahrain Prime Minister Shaik Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa in Malacañang yesterday as the two governments signed economic agreements to boost ties.

Cabinet officials from the two countries held bilateral talks after Ms Macapagal conferred on Khalifa the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of Raja.

One of the accords was a convention on the avoidance of double taxation and the other was an agreement for the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments.

The first applies to taxes on income and capital which either state may impose, and provides that the profits of an enterprise of a contracting state would be taxable only in that state.

The second provides for fair and equitable treatment of investors in either state as well as adequate protection and security of their investments in the territories of the contracting parties.

Annual two-way trade between the Philippines and Bahrain totaled less than $7 million, the foreign affairs department said.

"We're very happy today to sign these agreements," Khalifa said at a joint news conference later.

He said the governments would "continue discussions for an even better future for our countries."

He also conveyed an invitation by Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa for Ms Macapagal to visit Manama "in the near future."

The President expressed her government's thanks "for the affection and support of Bahrain" to Filipinos "who found hope and a second home in your historic land in the Persian Gulf."

The Gulf emirate hosts 35,000 Filipino workers, she said.

She praised Manama for its role as "voice of moderation after the Sept. 11 attacks" on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, blamed by the United States on Islamic militants led by Afghanistan-based Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden.

Ms Macapagal said she briefed the prime minister on the Philippines' "active role in the anti-terrorist coalition," as well as her government's efforts to pursue peace in the rebellion-torn Muslim regions of the country.

"My administration is committed not only to the 1996 peace agreement (with the Moro National Liberation Front separatist guerrilla group) but also to pursue the socio-economic development of Mindanao," Ms Macapagal said.

Bahrain is a member of the influential Organization of Islamic Conference, which has played a crucial role in peace negotiations with Moro separatist groups.

# Media won't be muzzled, says Palace

By Carlito Pablo
and Rocky Nazareno

MALACAÑANG may be critical of the media, particularly its treatment of recent coup rumors, but it does not agree with suggestions it restrain Asia's most vibrant press.

Palace spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said it is the policy of President Macapagal-Arroyo to respect and promote press freedom.

"I personally believe deeply in the power of media as the Fourth Estate," said Tiglao, a veteran journalist before joining the administration.

Tiglao was reacting to a recommendation by Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul Concepcion that the government review the effects of the country's "freewheeling democracy and media" on development.

Concepcion said the National Economic Summit on Nov. 26 would be a good time for government to study if the two institutions were a "deterrent to economic growth."

Concepcion had also hinted the President could use her special powers to clamp down on the "freewheeling" ways of the institutions.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday admonished the President not to follow Concepcion's suggestion.

"Warts and all, our democratic system and rambunctious press are still preferable to the alternatives," Angara said in a statement.

Angara said the opposition would "strongly oppose any move to rein in our democratic institutions and the media in favor of a promised economic utopia."

Instead of a clampdown, Angara said the administration should "strengthen the country's weak democratic institutions" and provide for "training, retraining and scholarship programs" for the working media.

Tiglao said the press, in fact, helps the government because it assists in monitoring what goes on in the country.

"Media is an information system. It gives us a lot of feedback. The executive branch can't monitor everything," Tiglao said.

He, however, could not resist taking another dig at media, which he chastised recently for playing up rumors of a coup against the government.

"As long as you take the facts seriously," he said, alluding to a recent INQUIRER headline which read, "Take coup seriously."

## IMMUNE FROM PROSECUTION

# Raps vs Comelec chief junked

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Blanche S. Rivera

SAYING his office had no jurisdiction over impeachable officials, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto dismissed yesterday the graft case filed against Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo in connection with alleged fund irregularities.

Desierto said that Benipayo should first be impeached by Congress before the Ombudsman's Office could file administrative or criminal charges against him.

"He is an impeachable official, so he is immune from prosecution. The Ombudsman cannot investigate him for criminal or administrative offenses at this point," Desierto said.

For Benipayo, however, the Ombudsman's dismissal of the graft case was "a vindication."

Benipayo said he is convinced that Comelec insiders who want him out of the poll body had fed false information to lawyer Dante Barcebal, who filed the graft case as a private complainant.

Benipayo said, "People who do not want (me) to be confirmed because it would not be good for their purposes" must have been behind the charges.

Benipayo's appointment has been bypassed by the Commission on Appointments thrice this year, prompting the President to appoint him a fourth time.

Desierto dismissed the graft case on the recommendation of the Ombudsman Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau (EPIB), which studied the complaint.

On Oct. 25, Barcebal accused Benipayo of violating the Anti-Graft Law (Republic Act 3019) for allegedly ordering the purchase of a P1.1-million Toyota Hi Ace Super Grandia van and the unlawful reimbursement of P17,400 in medicines allegedly for him and his daughter.

In his affidavit-complaint, Barcebal said the purchase of the vehicle was anomalous since it was not authorized by an en banc resolution, in violation of Comelec Minute Resolution No. 99-2198 and Memorandum No. 99-226.

He said Benipayo himself signed the purchase order for the van, which was delivered to the Comelec on March 3 and paid for in full on March 28.

Barcebal said Benipayo also unlawfully reimbursed the purchase of medicines "as requisitioned by his daughter, Ma. Veronica Benipayo, his executive assistant, for his personal use from Comelec funds."

He said Benipayo also attended a seminar in Stockholm, Sweden, without a formal invitation from the organizers, and charged his expenses amounting to more P500,000 to the poll body.

The law says only Congress can investigate and remove impeachable officials like the President, Vice President, justices of the Supreme Court and the heads of Constitutional bodies like the Comelec and the Ombudsman's Office. These officials cannot be charged or investigated by the judiciary or any quasi-judicial body unless they are first removed from office through impeachment.

Benipayo said the documents used by Barcebal to make his case had come from the Comelec offices and could have only been released by insiders with access to the papers.

"They did not succeed. Better luck next time," he said in a press conference yesterday.

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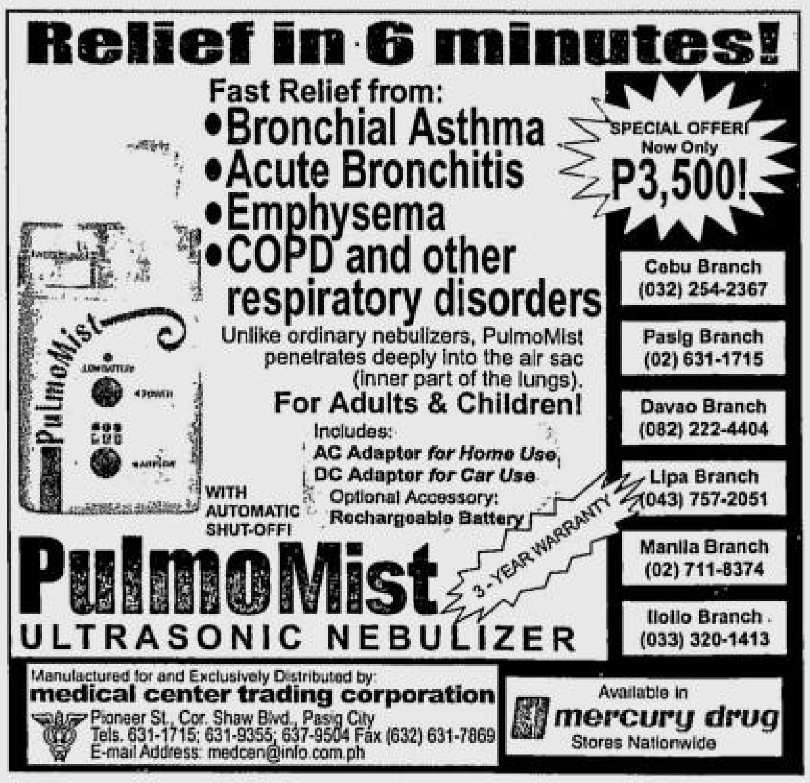

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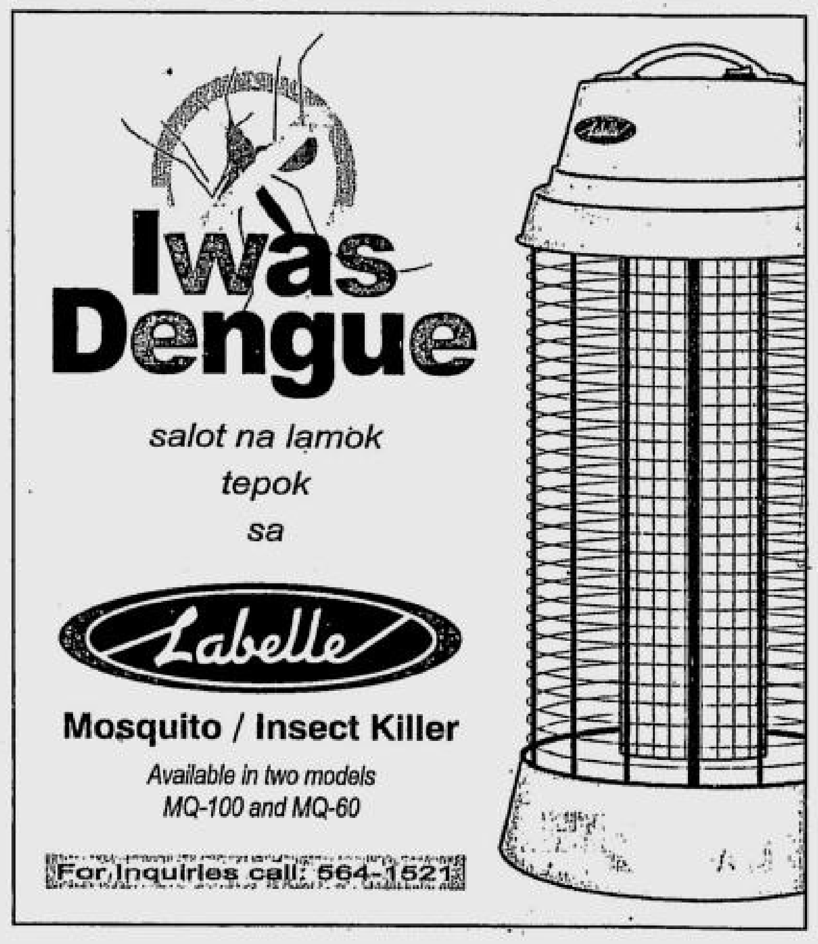

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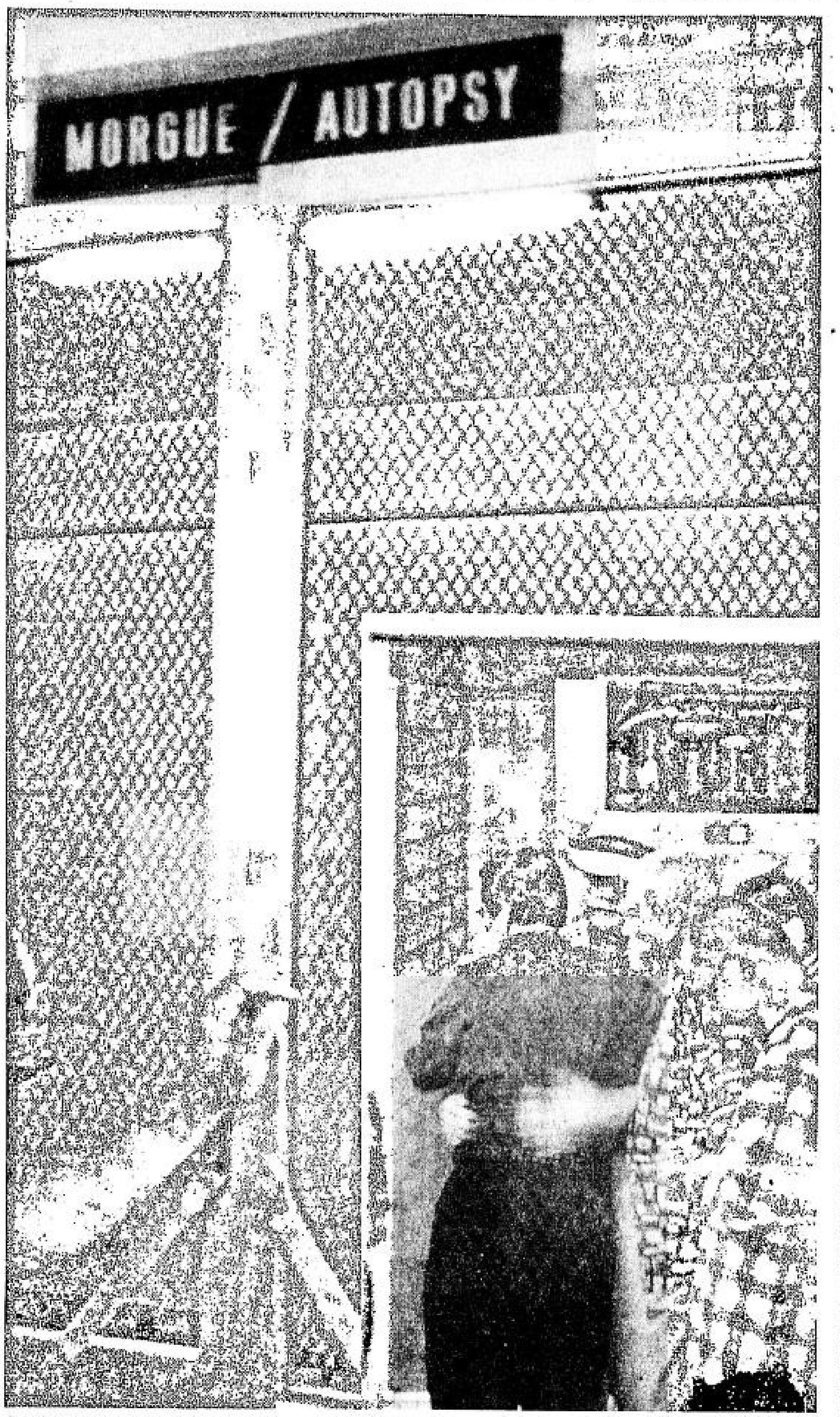


**SINGING** and dancing partner, Nestor de Villa, condoles with Rod Lauren Strunk at the PNP Crime Laboratory while Nida Blanca's body is being autopsied. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

**THE REMAINS** of the actress are ferried by a police van from the Atlanta Bldg. to the PNP morgue for autopsy. ERIK ARAZAS

**FIRST** arrivals at the scene of the crime, Blanca's bosom friend, Annabelle Rama and her husband Eddie Gutierrez. ERIK ARAZAS

# Nida Blanca stabbed dead

(From page A1).

Leandro Mendoza to immediately solve the murder, according to Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito said he had put up a P300,000 reward for any information that would lead to the arrest of Blanca's killer.

The body was discovered at 8 a.m. yesterday in the back seat of her green Nissan Sentra sedan, which was parked on the sixth floor of the Atlanta Tower on Annapolis Street in San Juan.

Arugay said the actress was last seen alive around 5 p.m. Tuesday after leaving the office of the Movie, Television, Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) on the 33rd floor of the building. She headed the board's movie review committee.

Blanca was to have attended a requiem Mass for Dr. Bong Eraña that evening at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Arugay said.

A long time aide of Blanca's identified only as Elena said she waited in vain for the actress to arrive at the church, where novena prayers for the late Eraña was said. Eraña was the former child of actress Nenita Vidal.

"It was not like her not to call," Elena said.

"The suspect might have struck while (Blanca) was about to enter her car," Arugay said. "But when we found her car, it was parked in a dark corner. It was not parked in the space allotted for the MTRCB." The parking space allotted for the MTRCB officials was on the sixth floor.

However, initial findings of the autopsy performed by Reyes at 11 a.m. yesterday at the PNP Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame showed that Blanca died at 4 or 5 a.m., or roughly 12 hours after she was last seen alive.

"(Reyes) told me that *rigor mortis* had not set in when the victim was found," Arugay said.

The NBI has formed a 10-member team to look into the case.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, director of the Eastern Police District Office, said the NBI and the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group had joined forces for the probe.

### Disbelief

Blanca's husband has run the gamut of emotions since her body was found.

"At first I couldn't believe it," Strunk told reporters shortly after the body was brought to the PNP Crime Laboratory. "I saw her body myself, and still I couldn't believe it. But then it was her. I didn't quite know how to react. First there was disbelief, but now I feel mostly grief and anger."

Strunk is an American actor who has lived in the country since he and Blanca got married 22 years ago.

"The Philippines has become my home," he said as he tried to fight back tears. "For 22 years, we had been together. She was a dear friend of mine. We had our Bible studies together."

And now, he said, "my life has practically stopped."

Strunk said he now mostly remembered Blanca's smile and laughter, which, he said, would automatically "cheer me up."

"We were soul mates," he said, letting out an exhausted, wry laugh. "We were so close. She was my best friend, my lover, my wife. This is such a senseless waste of life. I really don't know what to do now without her."

Nestor de Villa, Blanca's long time screen partner, was at Camp Crame to condole with her family.

### Shallow wounds

The PNP's Pedregosa said the stabbing of Blanca was "not methodical" and the wounds were shallow—around 2 1/2 inches deep, indicating that a short knife was used.

The autopsy showed two stab wounds in the left cheek, two behind the left ear, two in the neck which hit the larynx, two in the back just above the buttocks and five in the left chest just below the armpit.

The report said the cause of death was "hemorrhagic shock as a result of multiple stab wounds in the left neck."

Blanca also suffered hematoma (or bruise) in the right eye, which, Pedregosa said, could have been inflicted using a blunt object.

Two ribs were broken, also possibly by a blunt object, he said.

As the body was being wheeled out of the PNP Crime Laborartory, a pathologist was overheard saying that there was undigested food in the stomach—indicating that Blanca had dinner Tuesday night.

Pedregosa said Blanca's car, handbag and wallet would be subjected to fingerprint tests.

DNA tests will also be conducted on scrapings from under Blanca's fingernails. "These (scrapings) will be processed and filed so that we will have something to match against once a suspect is arrested," he said.

Blanca's body was taken to the Loyola Funeral Homes in Guadalupe, Makati City, at 1:20 p.m.

### Estrada

JV Ejercito quoted Strunk as saying that Blanca was to have visited his father, ex-President Joseph Estrada, at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) 6 p.m. yesterday.

She was going to make the visit to her long time friend along with her husband and other Mowelfund members, he said.

"This is very shocking to me, and my father especially," Ejercito said around 4:30 p.m. yesterday, shortly after he visited Estrada at the VMMC presidential suite. "My father is very, very sad. His sadness has been increased."

Ejercito said his father was the second to phone him yesterday morning about the murder. He said Estrada gave him specific instructions to personally attend to the case, and to immediately go to the crime scene.

The first call, around 9:30 a.m., was from the San Juan chief of police, Ejercito said, adding that Estrada would have wanted to see to the matter personally but could not do so because of his situation.

Ejercito said Estrada might ask the Sandiganbayan to allow him to leave the VMMC to pay his respects to Blanca's remains.

The mayor said his family did not expect a violent death for Blanca because she was a very kind person who had no enemies.

"My father considered her a sister," he said. "She had been a friend to the family for 40 years."

He also said Blanca was among Estrada's friends from show business who had remained steadfast in their support for the former President.

"While some of our show biz friends chose to keep silent, Ms Nida Blanca remained very vocal in her support for my father," he said.

### Biggest case

Noting that Blanca's wallet had been cleaned out, Ejercito theorized that robbery could have been the motive of her killer.

Or the killer could have been high on drugs to do such a thing, he said.

Ejercito said this was the biggest murder case he was facing as mayor of San Juan, the long-time bulwark of the Estradas. But the sad part is that the victim is a very close friend of the family, he said.

"The peace and order situation is really worsening under the new administration," he said. "It was not this bad during the time of President Estrada."

The neophyte mayor said that even before he assumed office, he had foreseen that the peace and order problem would worsen because of the worsening economic condition under the Macapagal administration.

He said he would increase police visibility, including bike patrols, and strengthen the "tipster" system to address the situation.

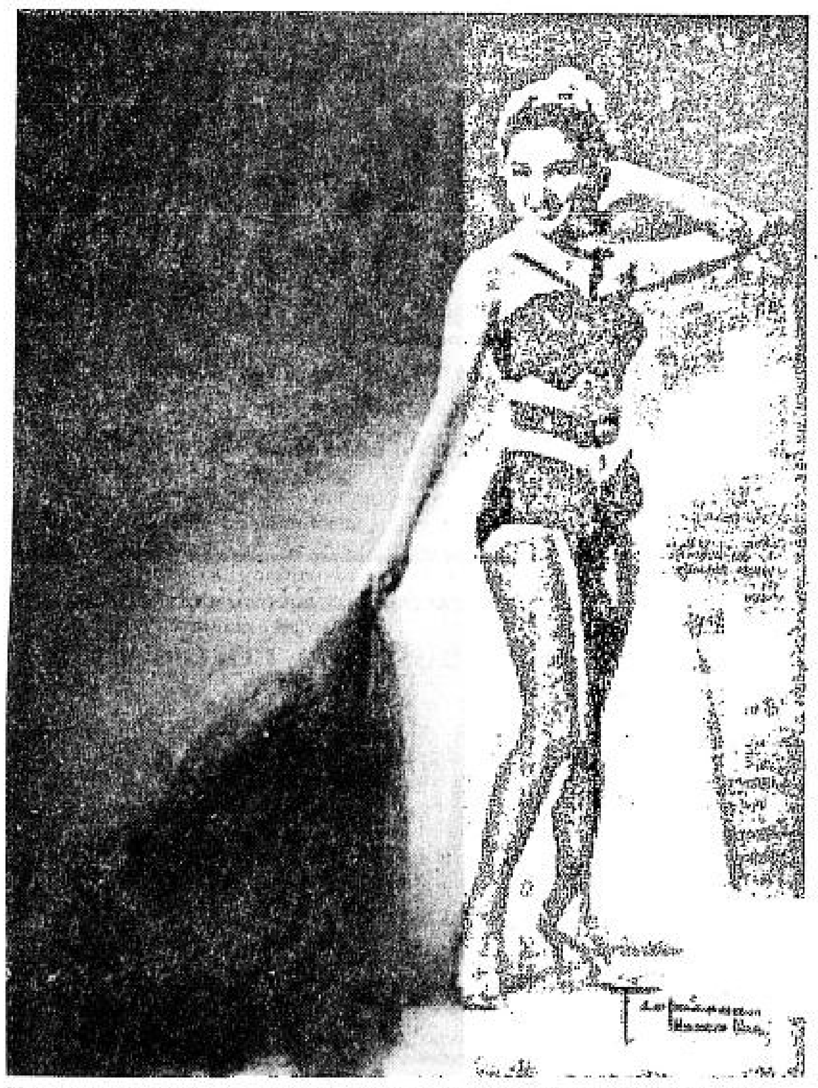
But he said that he had to make do with just 200 policemen who operate in two shifts of 12 hours each. In other cities, he pointed out, policemen worked in shifts of eight hours only.

"We are really undermanned," Ejercito said.

He said his request for more policemen had yet to be approved.

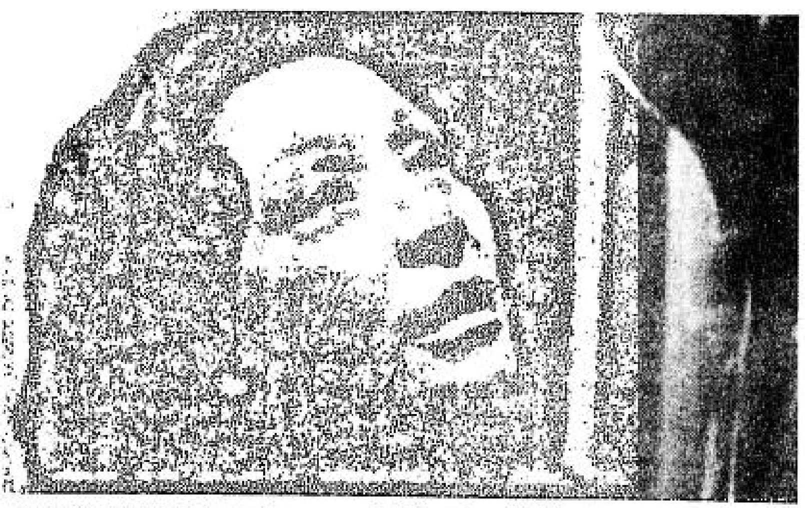
"The PNP can only do so much. As my father said, a hungry stomach knows no law," he said. ***With reports from Donna S. Cueto, Cathy Babao-Guballa, Nelson F. Flores and Carlito Pablo***

## FLASHBACK



**UNUSUAL** publicity shot of a song and dance comedy star turned sexy.

**BEST** friends and lovers, husband of 22 years Rod Lauren Strunk describes his wife.



**AWARD-WINNING** performance in "Magdusa Ka" in 1986 when she won Best Actress from the Film Academy of the Philippines, Urian Awards, Catholic Mass Media Awards and the Famas.

**TRIPPING** the light fantastic with Nestor de Villa through more than a dozen hit films.

**COMEDIENNE** at her best with Niño Muhlach.

**FAMILY** portrait of the long-running sitcom, John and Marsha.

## MALTHUSIAN NIGHTMARE

# 11B people on Earth by 2050

By Armand N. Nocum

THE WORLD'S population could skyrocket to 10.9 billion people by 2050 if women do not gain better access to education and health care, a United Nations report said.

Women must receive equal status with men, get adequate reproductive health and have right to plan the size of their families if the planet is to rein in a population already expected to grow by 50 percent over the next half century, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said.

In the Philippines, legislators and business leaders are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to pursue an aggressive population control program to arrest the country's ballooning population of 76.5 million, which grows by 1.7 million annually. This translates to three babies being born every minute.

In a program marking the worldwide release of the UNFPA State of World's Population report, party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales urged Ms Macapagal to "emancipate" the government's population program from the dictates of the Catholic Church. She lamented that the "obstructionist" church has stymied the effective implementation of the country's 30-year-old population program.

Rosales said she and 37 other women lawmakers were willing to help the President draft a population program that would deviate from what the Church had been pushing. The Church only accepts so-called natural family planning methods.

But Rosales admitted that even in Congress, "there's a lot of resistance" from the "institution, the Catholic Church" when legislators push for aggressive population control measures.

### Call for emancipation

Rosales said Filipino women should take it upon themselves to assert their reproductive rights if the government fails to take the initiative of pushing for a stronger population program.

"Filipino women must be emancipated," she said.

Peter Garrucho, who represented the business sector, also stressed the need for a "vigorous population" program. He said the government should "not be afraid" to include such program in the national policy agenda.

"There should be an informed decision-making at the policy-making level and at the individual level," Garrucho said.

### No church pressure

Both Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas and Commission on Population (Popcom) head Tomas Osias denied that the government was getting pressure from the Catholic Church.

Canlas said the government's population management program is not premised on stopping births through contraceptives alone. It also involves uplifting the people's economic condition, education and health.

Osias said that Popcom is "not feeling any pressure form the Catholic Church."

"I think we can see areas where we can collaborate and work with the church," he said.

### Strain on the environment

In its report titled Population and Environmental Change 2001, the UNFPA warned that the world's growing population would put increasing demands on water, food and energy supplies and could threaten sustainable development.

UNFPA said growing consumption of the planet's limited water resources for industrial development and irrigation constituted the single most serious challenge to sustainable development and world peace.

"Competition for increasingly scarce water increases the likelihood of international conflict, both economic and military, over water quality and diversion schemes," the report warned.

### Potential threat

Today, more than 200 rivers cross international borders and 13 major rivers and lakes are shared by 100 countries. These pose a potential threat to stability as water supplies dwindle.

According to UNFPA estimates, if current water consumption remained steady, in 25 years' time, 70 percent of the annual available freshwater could be used as a result of population growth alone.

But if developing countries were to increase their usage, water resources could be strained even further. Developing countries are expected to account for over 85 percent of the world's population in the next 25 years.

"If per capita consumption everywhere reached the level of more developed countries, we could be using 90 percent of the available water by 2025," the report added.

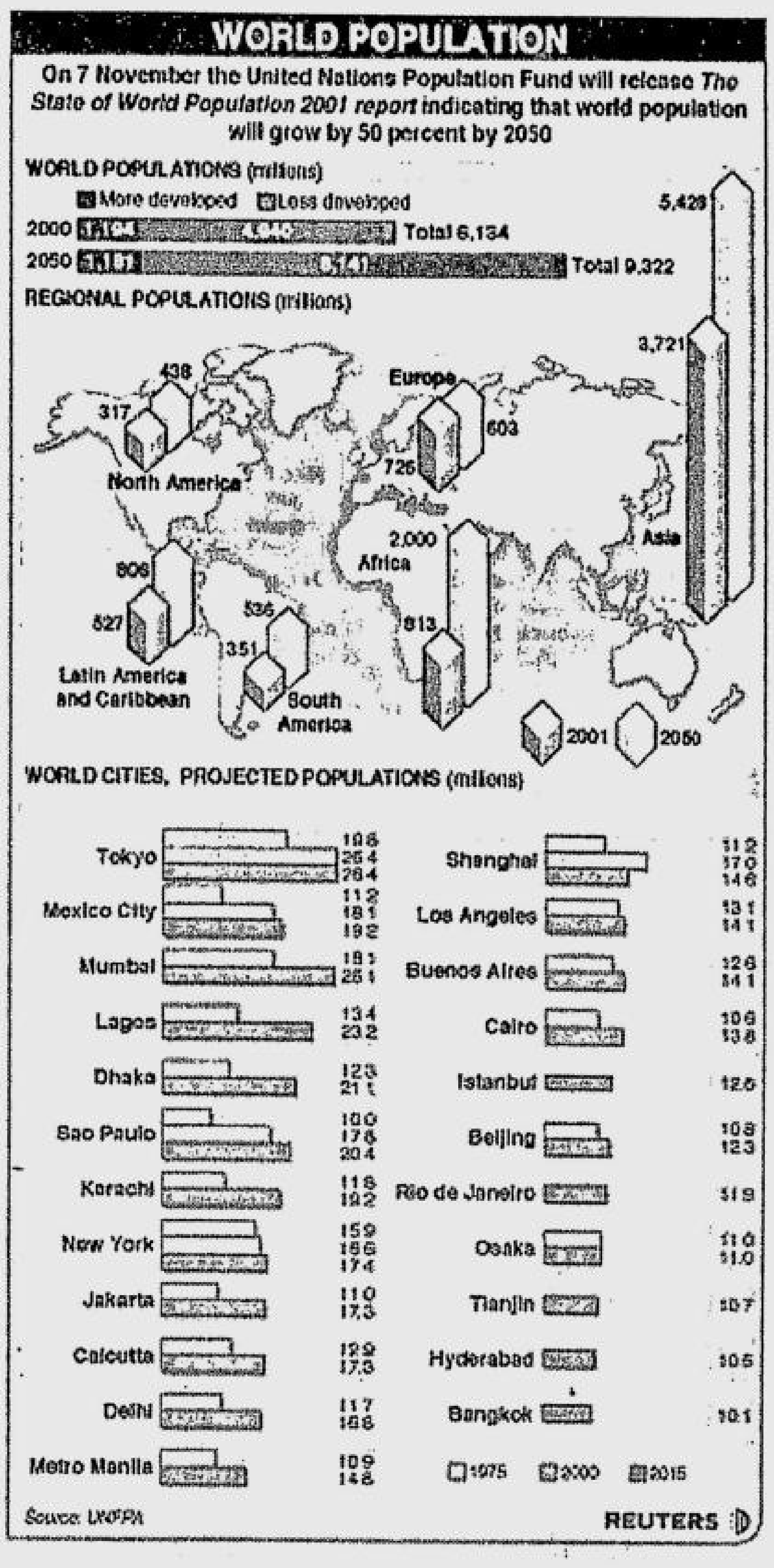
### 50 liters per person

UNFPA experts also warned that by 2050, 4.2 billion people, or 45 percent of the global population, could be living in countries that would not be able to meet the minimum requirement of 50 liters of water per person per day.

The report also maintained that purely technological solutions to water scarcity were likely to have only a limited effect, as most developing countries could not afford to take on the costs.

In addition, rapid population growth in and around urban areas would overwhelm existing water systems, with potential negative effects on both water quality and availability.

To feed the nearly 8 billion people expected by 2025 and to improve their diets, the world will have to double food production and improve distribution—without relying on specialized fertilizers and pesticides, which would further disturb the ecological balance, UNFPA said. *With reports from AP, AFP*



# Population wipes out RP growth

(From page A1)

But large families remained desirable among many of the 76 million Filipinos, officials said.

Canlas quoted statistics from the population commission which showed Filipino men want an average of four children, while women want an average of 2.7. The average Filipino family now has 3.7 children.

The ranks of the country's poor are swelling. Canlas said about 40 percent of the population were living below the poverty line now, compared with 37 percent during the early 1990s.

The dominant Catholic Church has traditionally resisted population management schemes, citing an objection to artificial methods of birth control.

Some government population programs have tried encouraging the "rhythm" or abstinence method which the church sanctions as the only acceptable form of birth control, although this has generally been less effective than artificial methods such as condoms or oral contraceptives. *Reuters*

# 'She doesn't deserve a violent ending . . .'

(From page A1)

being served by the caterer was pork. She didn't eat pork. Today, every time I go to the supermarket I always look for Victoria's Sardines."

Now there are only fond memories of the 65-year-old Blanca.

"She is a big loss to the industry," said De los Reyes, who directed the actress in her last big-screen appearance before she died.

"She doesn't deserve a violent ending to her long and fruitful career," remarked film critic Mario Bautista.

Blanca is best remembered for the long-running TV sitcom "John en Marsha," in which she starred with ace comedian Dolphy.

The actress, who was known as the original "Miss Taray" and "Miss Galawgaw," was born Dorothy Acueza Jones on Jan. 6, 1936, in Gapan, Nueva Ecija. She was the only child of Inocencia Acueza and American John William Jones II.

She started her show biz career at 15, when she was discovered by LVN Pictures matriarch Narcisa de Leon, more popularly known as Doña Sisang. It was actress Delia Razon who brought Blanca to the LVN studios.

### Efficient

De los Reyes remembers Blanca as an efficient and professional actress who always came to the set prepared.

"It was not hard to work with her," he said. "She was very professional. She was always on time or even ahead of all of us. You could joke on the set when she was around, perhaps because she was also a comedian."

When it came to Blanca's acting, De los Reyes noted that the actress had no complicated preparations.

"She would inquire about the script and then decide how her character should be played, down to the clothes to be worn for the movie. She wants everything ironed out. It was so easy to get it from her," he said.

For "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka," he said, "I asked her to do a particular scene five times, each with a different reaction so I could choose, and she delivered what I wanted."

De los Reyes admitted to being a big Nida Blanca fan even before he became a film director.

"When I was a teenager, I would sell *makopa* just to earn money so I could watch a Nida-Nestor (de Villa) movie," he recalled. "I don't want to think she's gone. The industry will miss her. She had done so much for the industry. I hope we will unite in giving justice to her death."

In "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka," Blanca played a Mother Superior who was also the aunt of Diether Ocampo.

"You could always count on her when you do your scenes together," said Ocampo, who first worked with Blanca in "Mula sa Puso."

"We shot for only two days in Tagaytay but I didn't hear any complaints from her. She was very professional. She was like a mother to all of us. She was very caring," he added.

Ocampo's co-star Joyce Jimenez recalled Blanca as a cheerful person. They first worked together in "Biyaheng Langit" last year.

"She was always smiling on the set and she was very helpful," Jimenez said.

### Worried

Caridad Sanchez, a good friend of Blanca's since 1958, told the INQUIRER she was to have met up with the actress Tuesday evening to take part in prayers for a recently deceased friend at Forbes Park in Makati City.

"I had to call her up earlier (Tuesday) to tell her that I couldn't go with her because I was not feeling well," Sanchez said, adding:

"When she didn't show up at Forbes Park, our other friends were worried. It was so unlike Dory not to call when she couldn't come."

Blanca was also Sanchez's neighbor in White Plains, Quezon City.

"She was a beautiful person inside and out," Sanchez said of her longtime friend. "I was shocked when I learned about her death. My daughter, Cathy, had to break it to me slowly because she knows how close I am to Dory."

Blanca was last seen in a show biz function Sunday night, the birthday celebration of actress-producer Armida Siguion-Reyna, former chief of the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board, at the Bahia Restaurant in Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

Aside from "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka," Blanca was seen in two other movies this year. She played dominant mother-in-law to Lorna Tolentino in Eddie Garcia's "Abakada Ina" and lovesick aunt to Judy Ann Santos in Rowell Santiago's "Luv Text."

On TV, Blanca played a witch grandma to Danica Sotto and Maxine Magalona in the GMA-7 sitcom, "Da De Di Do Doo."

Her other TV credits earlier on in her career included "The Nida-Nestor Show" and "Ang Mahiwagang Daigdig ni Doray."

### Katherine

Blanca was first married in 1957 to Ruth Torres, an architect. They met when she was 21, while confined at the UST Hospital.

Their marriage lasted for five years and produced a daughter, Katherine, an accountant now based in the United States.

The family is waiting for Kay to arrive from Los Angeles to decide on the cremation date.

The wake will be held in White Plains Chapel.

"Whenever she was in the United States, Dory would always play her role as mom to Kate to the hilt," De los Reyes said. "She would drive for Kate when her daughter would apply for a job and wait for her at the parking lot while Kate was being interviewed."

After her first marriage, Nida had other relationships. For more than three years she lived with then TV executive Romeo Jalosjos, now a congressman who is in jail on a rape conviction.

She also went steady with actor Bert Leroy Jr. for eight years until 1979, when Leroy migrated to the United States.

That same year, Nida married American actor-singer Rod Lauren. The couple appears in the Sustagen Premium milk TV advertisement.

Blanca is the fifth show biz celebrity who died in a span of one month, following former matinee idol Ricky Belmonte, actor-director Eddie Rodriguez, hair stylist-comedian Jun Encarnacion and character actor Ray Ventura.

### Film credits

In 1951, Blanca made her big screen debut in a supporting role in "Reyna Elena." This was followed by "Amor Mio" that same year.

At 16, Blanca won the first Famas best supporting actress award in 1952 for her role as a war refugee who falls in love with Filipino soldier Boni Serrano in "Korea."

The movie was written by the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino based on his exploits on the Korean war.

Aquino was reportedly a suitor of the actress in the mid-'50s.

Blanca rose to become an even bigger star of LVN Pictures when she was paired with De Villa, who was also her dancing partner in many film extravaganzas.

Their love team was launched in "Dalawang Sundalong Kanin" in 1952 and they went on to do memorable pictures like "Ikaw Kasi," "Tumbalik na Daigdig," "Darling Ko," "Ganyan Ka Pala," "Handang Matodas," "Tingnan Natin," "Turista" and "Bahala Na."

Blanca was also best remembered for her feisty and tomboyish character in "Waray-Waray," opposite Gloria Romero's "Manang Biday."

### Hysterics

Romero, who was dubbing for a movie yesterday, went into hysterics after learning about Blanca's violent death, according to De los Reyes.

In 1985, Blanca was named best actress by the Film Academy of the Philippines, Urian and Catholic Mass Media Awards for "Miguelito, Ang Batang Rebelde," where she played the mother of Aga Muhlach.

The following year, she made a grand slam victory as best actress for her role as the unforgiving mother of Dina Bonnevie in "Magdusa Ka."

In 1987, Blanca scored another acting award as best supporting actress for "Kid, Huwag Kang Susuko."

In 1998, she was adjudged best actress for Jeffrey Jeturian's "Sana Pag-ibig Na."

Blanca served as board member of the MTRCB under three chairs—Siguion-Reyna, Nicanor Tiongson and Alejandro Roces.

De los Reyes first worked with Blanca in the Nora Aunor starrer, "Annie Batungbacal," in 1979.

He directed her again in four other movies—"Saan Darating ang Umaga," "Anak ni Waray vs. Anak ni Biday," "Ikaw Pa Rin ang Iibigin" and "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka."

# Imelda gets gov't pension

(From page A1)

over two checks worth P46,500 to the widow of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, and made a teary-eyed Imelda Marcos a grateful pensioner.

She will now start getting a monthly pension of P4,500 from the government representing the "old-age" pension of widows of war veterans.

The P46,500 represents the total of the past year's monthly pension.

Despite the objection of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Reyes defended the government's decision to give a pension to Imelda, who at the peak of her reign, was suspected to be one of the world's wealthiest.

He said that the defense department received an application for the pension just two weeks ago.

Asked if he considered Marcos a "hero," Reyes said that the ousted dictator served the country during World War II and also served as commander-in-chief.

Marcos deserved whatever honor comes along his way, Reyes told reporters.

Imelda Marcos thanked Reyes and hinted that the recognition could finally pave the way for the burial of her husband at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The hero's burial could be the start in the rehabilitation of Marcos' battered image.

"It's the right thing to do because as a soldier of the Armed Forces, he has the right to a pension. He was always recognized as a veteran and served as commander-in-chief for a long time," she told reporters.

"We hope all the right things will come after this," she added.

### Service record

According to records at the Department of National Defense, Marcos served as assistant chief of the intelligence unit of the 21st Infantry Division of the Philippine Army at the start of World War II.

He left the service in 1946 with the rank of major.

Marcos had boasted that he was one of the most decorated heroes to come out of the war.

Historians later found evidence that most of the 27 medals he claimed to have received were fake and his military record greatly exaggerated.

After he was toppled in 1986, Marcos fled to Hawaii where he died in 1989. His body was brought home to the Philippines in 1992 and is now preserved in his native Batac, Ilocos Norte.

In 1994, Imelda was recognized as the widow of a war veteran and qualified for a pension.

The DND's public information office said her pension for the year 1994 to 2000 had not yet been paid and government was expected to pay her "when funds are available."

Asked if she would insist on having her husband buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, she said, "It will depend on the authorities . . . at the proper time. I hope the issue of his being a soldier . . . the Marcos issue will be put to rest. After all, he's been dead for 12 years," she said.

**A GRATEFUL** Imelda Marcos is richer by P46,500 as of Wednesday. REUTERS

INQUIRER research revealed that only Medal of Valor awardees, presidents, commanders-in-chief, defense secretaries, chiefs of staff and officers are entitled to be buried in the hallowed grounds of Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Veterans of the 1896 revolution, World Wars II and I recognized guerillas, statesmen and National Artists are also eligible for a hero's burial.

But the burials would have to be approved by the commander-in-chief, the Congress or the defense secretary.

The research also showed that there were exceptions to include soldiers who were dishonorably discharged or those who were convicted by "final judgment" of offenses involving "moral turpitude."

### PCGG objects

Former Defense Undersecretary Ruben Carranza, now a PCGG commissioner, said the pension money of the former first lady should be returned to the people.

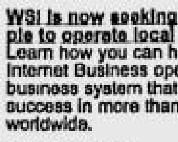
"Receiving pension for Ferdinand Marcos' time in the Philippine military will not make his medal genuine. Instead of taking money from the people she should return all the money she and her husband stole from the people," Carranza told defense reporters.

"It is hypocrisy on her part to get more money when all these legitimate veterans sometimes complain that they haven't receive their pension . . . the reason why government has no money is because they stole it," he added.

Government estimates that the Marcoses illegally amassed during the strongman's 20-year-rule a total of from $5 billion to $10 billion, including assets.

Known cash deposits of the Marcoses in various banks abroad is estimated at $650 million.

Imelda told reporters before boarding a shiny, black limousine, that she intends to deposit it at the Veterans Bank.



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# OPINION

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## Change in tune

**EDITORIAL**

AFTER SEVEN months in detention, ousted President Joseph Estrada has changed his tune. He now wants to seek surgery in the United States for his failing eyesight and arthritic knees.

During his last days in Malacañang, Estrada scornfully brushed aside suggestions that he leave the country to pave the way for a smooth transfer of power to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. In a melodramatic statement issued after the military and police defection, Estrada told his aides he would rather die in office than seek asylum abroad.

Detention has eroded the heroic posturing, and has multiplied or aggravated his ailments and pains not previously felt. Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito has initiated a campaign to gain public sympathy for the sufferings of her husband. At a shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of the hopeless, Senator Ejercito called attention to the deterioration of Estrada's health, saying his knees urgently needed surgery to relieve him of the daily agony of pain.

Not only that. She said Estrada's chronic pulmonary disease was getting worse because he continued to smoke heavily—an aggravation for which no one is to blame but the patient himself. She then asked St. Jude to intercede on his behalf. Divine intervention seems to have come swiftly.

Her prayers were answered promptly in the form of the intervention of Estrada's party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, which demanded that he be allowed to seek medical treatment overseas. The party's spokesperson, the ever faithful Estrada aide, Crispin Remulla, slammed the Catholic Church and other groups opposing his trip overseas, by challenging the church to live up to its preaching on compassion.

The party produced a medical bulletin by Estrada's orthopedic surgeon, a certain Cristopher S. Mow, in the United States, recommending that surgery on Estrada's knees "best be performed" in the United States, because facilities and equipment required for the surgery are not available in the Philippines.

It is now a matter of the word of a foreign doctor against the word of Filipino doctors who, according to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, have said that we have the equipment in Philippine medical centers and good doctors to perform the surgery.

Obviously, the Estrada camp has staged a campaign to lay the ground for a formal request by his lawyers with the Sandiganbayan to allow their client to leave for overseas. The Macapagal administration say it's up to the anti-graft court. The lawyers have not filed the request with the Sandiganbayan, although Estrada has assured a radio station he would return to the country after the treatment and would not use the trip as an opportunity to escape trial of his cases.

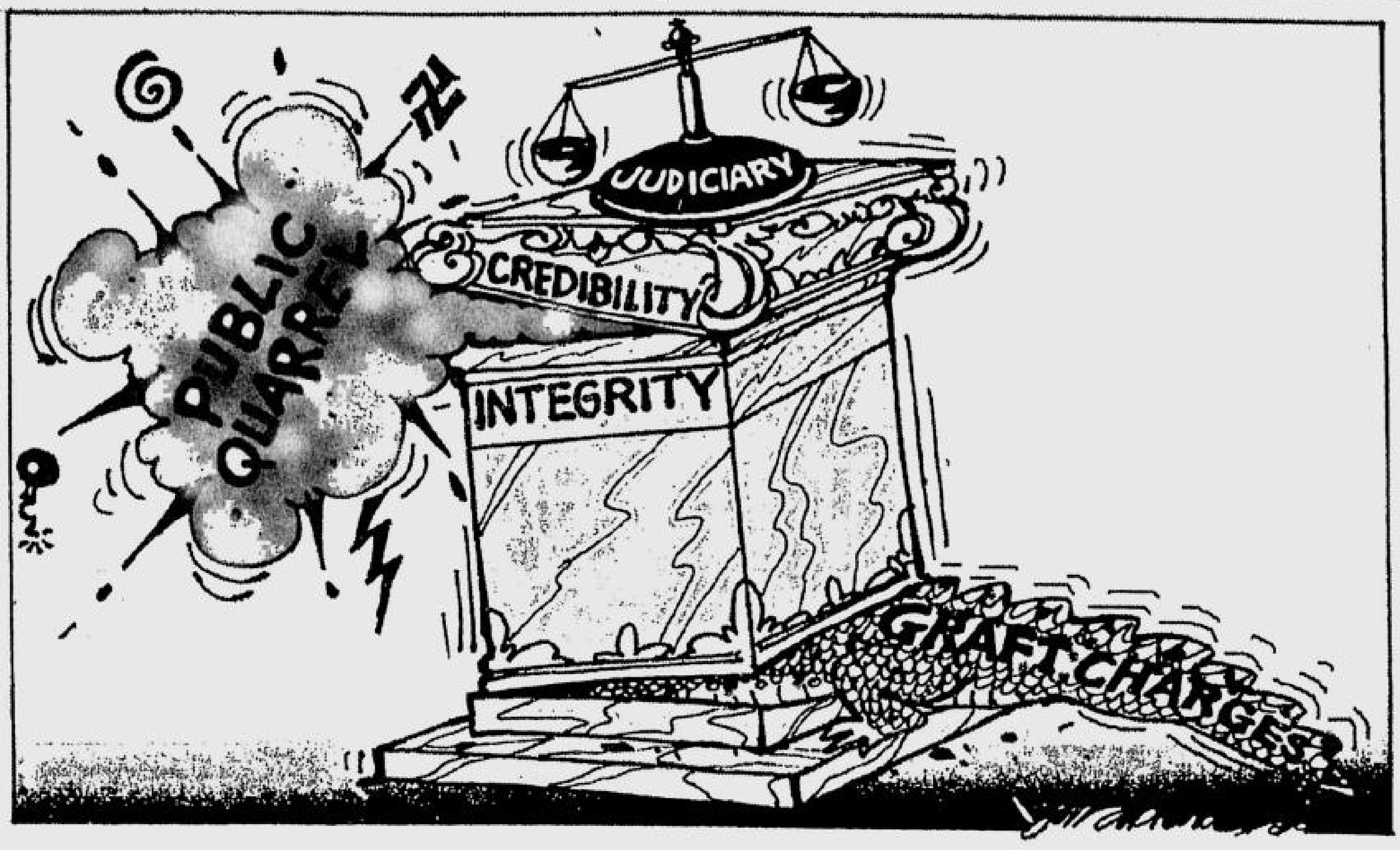
At the bottom of the objections to the trip is the government's fears, as well as those groups who were involved in the drive to remove him from office, that once granted leave, he would seek asylum overseas. These fears cannot be dismissed out of hand. For example, there's nothing sure about how long the treatment will last. Medical certificates can easily be produced to say further treatment and a lengthier stay are needed.

True, we have an extradition treaty with the United States. But the extradition process takes time. In the meantime, the trial in the Sandiganbayan could be suspended. Delay, on grounds of legal technicalities, is the name of the game of the defense lawyers. Medical treatment overseas seems to be another facet of the delaying tactics.

The political question is whether the absence of Estrada would buy domestic peace for President Macapagal and stop efforts by Estrada's allies to destabilize her administration. President Macapagal has gone out of her way to grant privileges in detention to Estrada, not accorded to ordinary citizens, and to make his detention comfortable, but the concessions have not prevented the opposition from waging a continuing campaign to embarrass the administration.

Part of the problems jarring the administration does not stem from Estrada's presence. It derives from controversies over the President's policies and decisions. These problems, especially alleviation of poverty, breed discontent. Maladroit handling of appointments and intended appointments of senior positions in the military and the national police has fueled coup rumors.

Should Estrada be allowed to go, the foundation upon which President Macapagal built her pledge of enforcing the principle of rule of law and accountability of presidents for wrong doings will crumble. If this happens, she cannot govern this unruly nation.



## We need protection from the cement cartel

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

THE LOCAL cement cartel composed of foreign-owned cement giants has embarked on a propaganda campaign, including press releases and full-page advertisements addressed to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, against the importation of cement. The cartel wants the Philippine government not only to put a cap on cement imports but also to raise tariffs by 50 percent. The full-page ad said: "Save our jobs. Save the cement industry. Save the economy." To accomplish this, the cartel wants the government to clamp down on imports, mostly from Taiwan. The ad was signed allegedly by an association of workers in the cement industry, but you can bet that it was paid for by the cement cartel itself.

But no, a clampdown on imports will save neither jobs nor the economy. On the contrary, many more jobs, especially in the construction industry, will be lost, and the economy will be depressed even more.

Construction has a multiplier effect on the economy; this is elementary. In a construction boom, other related industries—such as cement, steel, lumber, ceramics, glass, fixtures, electrical supplies, paint, etc.—also boom. More workers are employed. More money land in the hands of more people who use that money to buy consumer goods. Therefore, producers of consumer goods also prosper, produce more and hire more people. The economy improves.

In cases of economic depression, most governments try to revive it by giving incentives to the construction industry because of this multiplier effect. After the Great Depression in the United States, the government revved up construction by putting a cap of 9 percent on interest rates for home loans and increased public work projects. This generated jobs for the jobless and the US economy recovered.

The Philippine government should be doing this now not only to rev up the economy but also because so many of our people are without homes and so many infrastructure projects need to be done for the economy to boom.

Like steel, cement is the single most important ingredient in construction. The cement cartel knows this. So it is trying to monopolize the cement industry not only in the Philippines but in the world. The Philippines is only its latest victim. The cement giants of Europe bought out all but one of the Philippine cement companies with prices they couldn't refuse. With the local cement industry firmly in its control, the cartel then started to raise the prices of cement. Cement prices are now many times higher than the prices before the buyouts.

The world cartel is doing the same thing in other parts of the world. It controls the cement industry in parts of South America. It is trying to buy out cement companies in Indonesia, Korea and Taiwan.

It was in an effort to begin the takeover of Taiwan cement companies that the local cartel dumped its cement products at very cheap prices in Taiwan so the companies would lose business. The local cartel cries that Taiwan companies are "dumping" cement here, but it is doing the same thing to Taiwan. It is selling cement produced in the Philippines very cheaply in Taiwan. Then it gets back its losses by selling the same cement at astronomical prices to Filipino consumers.

Imagine that the cement is mined and processed here but it is sold here at prices many times higher than the export price. Do you know that Philippine cement is sold very much cheaper in the United States—the richest nation in the world—than it is here where it came from, among the poorest nations in the world? But in Brazil, I think, where the cartel has a monopoly, the price of cement is even higher than ours. We and the Brazilians are victims of the cartel.

In short, if we allow the cartel to have full control of our cement supply, we will be like Brazil with astronomical cement prices. That will make members of the cartel very rich but the Philippine government and people very poor. The government cannot afford to build roads and bridges and the people cannot afford to build homes.

It is because local cement prices are very high that imports are coming in. They're cheaper. Lower local prices to more reasonable levels and nobody would bother to export to us. There would be no profit in it.

But the cartel wants full control so it can raise its prices even higher. It cannot have full control with imports. And the Philippine government cannot and should not prevent imports under the liberalization and competition policy of the World Trade Organization of which we are a member. Violate the WTO agreements and we would be subject to trade sanctions.

Besides, members of the cartel are not Filipino companies that have to be protected. They are owned by foreign cement giants who send their profits earned here to their mother companies abroad. Their profits do not benefit the Philippines at all. And they don't need any protection. They're big enough to take care of themselves. In fact, they use their bigness to take advantage of their hosts like the Philippines. It is the poor countries, and the competing cement companies, that need protection from the giant cartel. Mark my word. This cartel is a dangerous group. It wants to dominate the world of cement. It wants to be the counterpart of Opec in cement.

Finally, let me ask President Macapagal and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas whose wishy-washy, namby-pamby and wimpy attitude on the cement issue is making the problem worse: If you import cheap drugs for the benefit of the people, why should the policy be any different for cement?

## Cracks on the wall

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

ONE US magazine wisely editorialized: "The United States needs the support not only of the elites governing Muslim countries but also of Muslim public opinion. This war will not be won in the mountains of Afghanistan. It will be won when Muslims are convinced that the United States acts justly."

Well, grief blinds, and absolute grief blinds absolutely. Otherwise, I don't know why that shouldn't have been obvious from the start. I don't know why the monstrosity of bombing a whole country to make one man, or a group of men, pay for their sins shouldn't have been patent from the start.

I remember an American writing me a couple of weeks after the Sept. 11 attack saying my fears that the United States would react equally violently to that attack were rather exaggerated. He said the threat to bomb Afghanistan would very likely remain just that, being more potent in the promise than in the execution. He forgot his country's history—and his country's president.

The editorial is right of course. A global war against terrorism won't be won in any specific territory, or even in a wide expanse of it, as President George W. Bush vows to extend it to. It won't be won there simply because it is not fought there—or not primarily so. It is fought in the vaster, deadlier and mine-strewn sands of the mind. The war against Osama bin Laden won't be won in the mountains and deserts of Afghanistan, it will be won in the hearts and minds of the Muslim *umah*, or universal religious community.

Terrorism isn't just a physical force, as should be equally obvious, it is an idea. In fact, it draws its force from being an idea, its occasional use of physical force being made only for demonstration effect. Its persistence comes from the logic that people who have been driven to the wall, or to the sea, have no recourse but to fight back in this way. Indeed, its power comes from the argument that a people who are fighting for their home and their beliefs, but are left with nothing to fight with, have no recourse but to strike back in this way. You will not kill that idea with bombs, you will only spread it like germs.

Certainly, you will not kill it by making the innocent pay as much as the guilty for acts of terror. There are limits to people buying the argument that there is a difference between a group of hijackers aiming a plane at a building full of civilians and a group of pilots aiming bombs at structures that may or may not harbor civilians. Certainly, the spate of news about "misfires and "mishits"—most benign terms for most unbenign results, but which suggests again that this is above all a war of words, a war of ideas, a war for hearts and minds—cannot improve its believability. At some point, Bush's recent statement about needing to press on with the bombings because "we are dealing with people who have absolutely no regard for the preciousness of life" must come back to haunt.

The editorial is right to point out the true arena of the fight against terrorism. But it still misses an even bigger point. Which is that to win the war, the United States does not only need the support of Muslim public opinion, in addition to that of Muslim leaders, it needs the support as well of Christian public opinion, in addition to that of Christian leaders. Indeed, more than even that, it does not only need the support of Christian public opinion, in addition to that of Christian leaders, it needs the support of world public opinion, in addition to that of the world's leaders.

Frankly, I cannot understand why anyone should think only the Muslim community has got to be convinced that the United States is acting justly by bombing Afghanistan in retaliation for the attack on the World Trade Center. It is an incredibly myopic view, suggesting as it does that the rest of the world buys the morality of it, only the Muslims need to be inveigled into doing the same thing. It is an incredibly myopic view, presuming as it does that the silence of the world in the face of the spectacle of four million Afghan refugees, along with the grieving kin of the collaterally damaged, signifies consent.

Well, it's not just the Muslim countries that have become restive of late. It's other parts of the world, assailed as they are by the increasing realization that the bombing of Afghanistan is not only not producing any effect, it is producing the opposite one of making Bin Laden a hero rather than a heel to Muslims. It's other parts of the world including the United States. Only recently, Pax Christi USA, a branch of an international peace movement, called for a halt in the US bombing of Afghanistan. It said Pakistani Bishop Joseph Coutts was being prophetic when he criticized the United States for "throwing the world into a fire" to get one man.

That criticism is bound to grow louder when the bombings continue into Ramadan, the holiest season of Islam, during the middle of this month. Bush has already ruled out suspending the bombings—the quote above, about the US dealing with people who have only contempt for human life, was in fact his ironic justification for it. It piles folly upon folly, though this last one could have the most tragic consequences, risking as it does a turn of public opinion against the United States. Which could follow swiftly, and not just from the Muslim countries. Bush has already made a mistake underestimating the resilience of the enemy—and correspondingly overestimating the resilience of the coalition—he will make an even bigger mistake underestimating the impact of shedding Muslim blood in the heart of Ramadan—and correspondingly overestimating the world's capacity for silence.

I can only hope that when US newspapers start editorializing wisely that winning the war against terrorism requires the support not just of the world's leaders but of the world's peoples, it won't be too late.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com*

# Vicky G. takes a 10 as loyal wife

PRESIDENTIAL Management Staff Chief Victoria P. Garchitorena called up last Tuesday to react to this column's write-up about her husband, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena. The justice had talked earlier that day by phone with her from Davao and they discussed this column. Vicky debunked what this column had referred to as talk going around that her husband had sided with deposed President Estrada for money considerations. "He'd rather be dead than do that," said Vicky, adding that Francis has maintained a simple lifestyle all the time that he has headed the graft court. She stressed that serving in government has been a sacrifice for them. Vicky also said that the talk that the Sandiganbayan chief was giving the administration a hard time to spite his wife, from whom he has been estranged for a few years now, is "so remote from the truth" and makes him sound "so petty," which he is not.

Vicky sounded every bit like a loyal wife despite their estrangement, as she stressed that her husband has dealt an even hand to everyone in upholding the law and how this, plus his admittedly high-handed manner, has earned him quite a few enemies. She related how he once told former President Aquino, who appointed him to the top post of the graft court, that should she come to his office she wouldn't find her portrait there. This is because, he reasoned to Aquino, "you might find yourself with a case in my sala someday." Garchitorena, said his wife, has never hung the photo of any president in his office.

* * *

**I reiterated to Vicky that it would take more than a verbal allegation to convince me that the justice fell for the money consideration, and I think this is true of many of his former co-marchers in the old parliament of the streets. But Vicky agreed with me that the money allegation, far more than the Sandiganbayan chief's imperious manner of dealing with people, is very serious and he has to confront it. To be fair, Justice Garchitorena is not the only jurist plagued by this talk, for if one were to believe it, even justices of the Supreme Court are allegedly being wooed with Erap's millions to rule that the Plunder Act, under which Erap is being charged, is unconstitutional. Again, if one were to believe reports, some of the magistrates have reportedly succumbed to the temptation. What the outcome of the Supreme Court vote later this month will be remains to be seen.**

**I also stressed to Vicky that many of us who**

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

**knew him from the old days are quite puzzled over some of his actuations, but she replied that he is firmly convinced about the correctness of his position. As a loyal wife, Vicky takes a 10 in my book.**

* * *

From Citem directress Eli Pinto-Mansor comes this clipping of an editorial of the Bangkok Post dated Sept. 30, 2001, titled "For whom the press tolls." Eli has suggested that the Post editorial be reprinted, which is an excellent idea, as it gives us an overseas view about how we are perceived. It's a nostalgic piece about a Philippines that once was-an eye-opener for us Filipinos, as well as a friendly suggestion from a neighbor. Here goes:

All over Thailand today, many Thai lawyers, doctors, nurses, engineers, scientists and researchers wonder when and how they can ever have their children enjoy the cheapest, most rigorously comprehensive American-derived education in Asia.

They were students in various universities in the Philippines. Today they are in Thailand's operating rooms, hospitals, research centers, law offices, brokerage firms and companies, all but a few running a considerable number of the country's businesses. When they meet and reminisce about their student days, almost all wonder when the Philippines will ever get its act together again. Today, they send their children to Australia, Canada, Europe or America for an English-intensive education. Given the choice, they would send the youngsters to Manila: it was cheap, it was fun and it was academically rigorous.

And the talk inevitably turns to their initiation to Filipino cuisine: the *balot* and its dinosaur-like fetus, the dark but creamy *dinuguan*, not to mention the incredible fun that Filipino *pares* can come up with at the most unexpected times and places.

But the Philippine archipelago is riven with bad press today, mainly due to a poor economy and its resulting illnesses of terrorism, kidnappings, crime and poor infrastructure development.

Only a fraction of its enrolment is foreign this year; a few Thais are still studying in the various universities throughout its 1,100 plus islands, as the negative press took its toll. But even these intrepid few won't dare to enjoy the thousands of beaches found all over the country.

It was not too long ago when the Philippines was the envy of many of its Asian neighbors. Today, Filipinos still attract the envy of Thais, particularly in their mastery of the English language. Strong academic training has also landed thousands of Filipinos various sales, academic, research and office jobs in Thailand. Many are surprised to meet Thai professionals who have enjoyed their college and higher education days in various universities in the Philippines. While they are not surprised that their countrymen reign supreme in the music and entertainment scene, many of them have forgotten their own country's excellence in the field of manpower training and education.

Admittedly, the problem that beset the Philippines will take much time and resources to correct. It will need much monetary infusion and responsible fiscal management to restart the nation.

But Manila can kill two birds with one stone much sooner, and with less capital, which it already has: an excellent educational system, and a profusion of very competent educators. Its bookstores and libraries are filled with excellent instructional and learning materials written by Filipinos—in excellent English.

With these, the Philippines can wing two targets in one swing: revive its reputation as a center of academic excellence in Asia, and bring in money. How? Offer education online.

With its superbly trained manpower in electronic communication, design engineers and website builders could team up with formidable array of educators in various fields to build a tempting menu of course offerings online. It could offer not only the most comprehensive range of subjects, it will also be the cheapest diploma one could get this side of the world.

And with its academic pride firmly in place—not to mention the foreign denominations rolling in—the Philippine government could well afford to gradually restore the peace, order and economy that everyone has been missing.

Then perhaps, the Philippines' Thai alumni could send their grandchildren to study real-time in the Philippines, and also enjoy the *lechon*, *balot* and the *dinuguan* they have only heard told. Then surely, the good press will toll its take.

# A pox on. . .all of you

AFTER THE EXCHANGE of accusations, the flag-waving of dirty linen and trading of one shameful revelation after another, do you think the public still trusts the Sandiganbayan? After being accused of demanding a bribe from a litigant only tangentially involved in a case his office was investigating, will Ombudsman Aniano Desierto still manage to hang on to the shreds of credibility attached to his person?

With the way events are shaping up, it's easy enough to discern the outlines of a "conspiracy" to derail the trial of former President Estrada. With both the prosecution and the court tainted and embarrassed, it's difficult to believe any decision made on the case or cases will be accepted by the public without being shadowed by tales of bribery, pressure or incompetence.

I don't know why they should even bother with the proceedings.

The conspiracy theory might hold up if not for one thing: None of the parties involved really needed help getting caught in the sticky flypaper they find themselves trying to shake off now.

From the start of the trial, Justice Anacleto Badoy has alternated between braggadocio and self-pity when facing the media and attempting to parry the blows aimed at him from the Erap defense team. Far from dominating the legal proceedings, he has seemed more like a hapless rolly-polly, bouncing and swaying with every challenge. Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, always voluble and hardly shy about expressing his opinions, early on tried to dominate the media spotlight and obviously chafed when attention shifted to the Third Division. But he hardly seems the type to help out Erap by seeking to take Badoy out of the picture. In the first place, the hearings weren't proceeding all that smoothly, and in the second, Badoy didn't appear to be that much of an obstacle to Erap's defense.

* * *

**AS for the Ombudsman, or the "Ombadsman" as his critics have sardonically dubbed him, the fact that he would be carrying the ball in the post-impeachment trial scenario was one of the things that gave anti-Erap protesters pause. His track record as a "graft buster" has not exactly inspired**

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

**confidence, and it had as much to do with his competence as a lawyer as his reputation.**

**For him to now say, as he has done in a marathon of radio interviews yesterday, that the bribery charge against him, constituting the basis of an impeachment complaint, is part of a campaign to get him out of the picture is laughable. His case preparation for the charges of plunder and perjury deserves a place in law books as a case study on how not to prosecute a case, as Garchitorena lectured from his podium. If Erap's well-compensated lawyers want to get the former President off the hook, their best bet would be to retain Desierto on the other side of the courtroom.**

**At this point, it's difficult to tell for sure if there are indeed grounds for the charges that Desierto asked for a paltry sum and a video camera from a concerned party in a suit. But I think many would agree that the notion is not exactly beyond the realm of the imagination.**

* * *

SOMEONE who went to Hong Kong for the "long weekend" around All Saints' Day reports that the scene in the former Crown Colony was not all that different from Manila. In fact, it was a lot like being in the midst of a newscast, or even a Senate hearing.

Among the personages spotted on the streets of Hong Kong were Sen. Gringo Honasan, former Ambassador (and Erap spokesperson) Manong Ernie Maceda, and any number of congresspersons and government officials. Indeed, Hong Kong was so full of Pinoys that it seemed like one hadn't left the country at all!

At the airport Sunday evening, Pinoys waiting for their flights to be called began receiving text messages about the Luzon-wide power outage, and how it had spooked a lot of folks leery of coup rumors. At once, people began asking around about Honasan, to check if he was still in Hong Kong or had gone back earlier and had something to do with either the brownout or the rumored coup, or both.

Come on, give the guy a break. Can't he go on holiday without being suspected of plotting against the government? Maybe it was just bad timing.

* * *

**NOW that gasoline prices have been slashed, and a new round of price reductions is predicted, I think it's time we asked: When will power rates likewise fall?**

**I mean, if the gas price reductions are based on falling world crude oil prices, shouldn't electricity, much of which is generated by oil-fired power plants, also become cheaper, too?**

**A spokesperson for Meralco, interviewed on radio, argued that they only distribute electricity which they "buy" from the National Power Corp. at a premium. Besides, electricity is generated from other sources as well, such as coal, hydropower, thermal power and, if the Malampaya site pans out, "clean" natural gas as well.**

**Still, since oil-fired plants continue to generate much of our power, shouldn't our electricity bills at least shrink a little? When will Meralco give us consumers a break?**

**As it is, to be personal about it, my electricity bill is effectively doubled each month by the mysterious something called a "PPA." I know it's supposed to compensate Meralco for "system losses" but why should a small consumer like me end up subsidizing Meralco's inefficiency or mendacity?**

**If oil firms can be convinced to roll back prices with every drop in world crude oil costs, why can't power firms likewise be pressured to respond to the global situation? Cheaper fuel should translate into cheaper power—at least that's how an ignorant layperson like me sees it.**

# 'Throwing the whole world into fire'

JOURNALISTS are among the most reckless where safety or their lives are concerned, so when you see them wearing bulletproof vests they must be starting to get scared.

Journalists in bulletproof vests. You see them in the TV news from foreign networks that are covering the war in Afghanistan. These journalists are not making a fashion statement but a statement on the war. Their lives are truly in danger. One of those wayward bombs could miss its target and land right where they're reporting live.

I remember the great Filipino UPI photojournalist Willy Vicoy who was nominated for a Pulitzer prize for his photos of the Vietnam War. A photo showed him in full battle gear, with helmet and all. Journalists, like the military chaplains, who went with the troops were required to wear them, Willy told us. He looked like any soldier except that the hardware he carried were not firearms but cameras. Willy rode the war tanks and sloshed through swamps with the grunts. Some of his photos showed dead children hit by gunfire.

Willy was killed, not in Vietnam, but in Isabela when New People's Army guerrillas ambushed a military convoy that Willy had joined. (Riding in military vehicles is supposed to be a no-no for us because of ambushes. I felt safer being on the other side—with the insurgents—because they moved in the shadows.)

One other journalist was killed in that ambush and another was wounded. That was in 1986, long after the Vietnam War was over, when Willy was often "shooting" the best of the new president then, Cory Aquino.

Willy is on my mind these days when I see journalists in bullet-proof vests, reporting live not far from the bomb targets. Still, as far as visuals are concerned, nothing could compare with the black-and-white stills that speak silently, loudly. Like the ones of Willy Vicoy.

Sadly, while the bullet-proof-vested journalists are continuously reporting live from war zones, little is heard about the cry for peace of ordinary citizens.

Pax Christi USA, a chapter of the 14,000-strong international Catholic peace movement active in 30 countries, has issued a statement calling for a halt

**HUMAN FACE**

*Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

in the US bombing in Afghanistan as well as attacks against Christians in Palestine and Pakistan.

In the statement titled "Throwing the Whole World Into Fire" sent to its Philippine chapter, Pax Christi USA condemned unreservedly the harassment, repression and killing of Palestinian Christians by the Israeli military and the attack on the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem during Sunday Mass on Oct. 21.

The statement came in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States that killed more than 5,000 people and the US retaliation against the Afghanistan-based al-Qaida network and the ruling Taliban that plays host to suspected terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

Pakistan Catholic Bishop Joseph Coutts was "prophetic" when he said that it was not wise for the United States to "throw the whole world into a fire" while targeting one person.

Pax Christi said it is the innocent that suffer the most in the endless cycle of violent reprisals between Israelis and Palestinians. It also condemned the massacre of Pakistani Christians at the Saint Dominic's Catholic Church in the city of Behawalpur on Oct. 28.

It described the attacks as "a corruption of the Islamic faith (when) the terrorists invoked the name of Allah as they slaughtered innocent worshippers."

Pax Christi is appealing to President Bush to halt the bombing and instead allow aid to reach the Afghans before winter starts. UN aid officials said that some 7.5 million Afghan civilians face starvation. It is a race against time, the Catholic Relief Services in Pakistan said.

But while the peace movement condemned military action, it affirmed the Vatican position for justice and due process for the suspects in the terror attacks. Vatican representative to the UN Archbishop Renato Martino had said that "this must be done in a way that does not expose even more innocent civilians to death and destruction. Violence on top of violence will only lead to more violence." This is a time for wisdom and perseverance, he added.

This "wisdom," Pax Christi said, should go against allowing millions of innocent civilians to perish. Continued bombing would mean "moral failure," a setback in the task of ending terrorism. "Exacerbating the already desperate plight of refugees in Afghanistan and surrounding nations will reinforce the very myths about the United States that have served the terrorists well and will create even more fertile ground for terrorist recruitment in the future. Thus our own military efforts to confront terrorism are in fact sowing the seeds of more violence in another generation filled with despair and hatred."

Pax Christi USA said it is committed to follow the "Non-violent Jesus who calls us to break the spiral of violence through love of neighbor and enemy alike. We stand with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Islamic world and with all people of goodwill in working to put out the fires of hatred."

* * *

**New York nuns against rhetoric of war and retaliation.** The Good Shepherd Sisters of the New York Province issued this brief but strong statement: "We, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, a worldwide congregation, are compelled to respond to the disaster of Sept. 11 and the ensuing rhetoric of war. We unite ourselves with the pain and anguish of those whose loved ones have died or are among the missing and we hold them in our hearts and prayers.

"In fidelity to our mission of reconciliation, we publicly declare our determination to stand in solidarity with the world community of peacemakers. Today, we join all those seeking to disarm evil and break the cycle of violence. We resolve to act out of **Love, not hatred; Forgiveness, not retaliation; Reconciliation, not division; Justice, not vengeance; Peace, not war.**"

# Musings

**YOUNGBLOOD**

*Bayani Thaddeus U. Barcenas*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

IT must be the monsoon rains of August. After long interludes, the rain comes down in torrents. Along with it the memories come flooding back, inducing me to think rather wistfully of the life I have lived. Somehow the rains do well in its campaign and in time I decided to put my thoughts on paper. I find myself in deep thought these days. I am nearing 30 and practically anything that has to do with work is but felicitous. The sad reality is that my employment may be discontinued any time, and the difficult situation of the economy complicates the situation. The only consolation I may get is I'm not alone on this one. I guess the slow days at the office and the rigidity of the norms make things unnecessarily complicating. Everything around me is becoming all too familiar and very predictable.

Each day begins and ends with punching the time clock. Though I'm glad that I have something to do for the meantime, I know I'm still searching for a better bargain. My current line of work, a product of circumstance rather than choice, doesn't take a lot of imagination to perform. Like the typical office workers out there, it's really up to me to make my office time worthwhile. It's quite a considerable challenge for an underemployed person to come out of the office each day with sanity intact. Right now, I am badly in need of intellectual stimulation and for this I miss the comfort of school.

After finishing college, I was in and out of jobs, started a family but just the same remained an average salary earner. I reckoned it would be best to go back to school even if it meant more work and sleepless nights. It is the added reward of self-improvement that challenged me. More than ever, an additional degree is what I needed so I can slug it out in the job market. My batchmates were already equipped with their masteral or doctoral degrees and had improved their marketability.

Six years after college and I am still left in the doldrums of underemployment and unemployment. This may be a result of my ambivalence toward a lasting career. To begin with, I never really had any career in mind. I thought that I would just let life unfold itself. If for anything, it is not indolence on my part but my carefree attitude toward life.

By contrast, serious-minded friends have a fairly good idea of what they wanted to do. Even at an early age, more scholarly classmates knew what they wanted to become, stuck to it and blazed a path toward it. On the home front, my parents instilled in me the value of education and academic excellence to better capitalize for the future. But if I am inclined to succeed in the arts, seeing hard-up artists is not at all encouraging. Inspired by lawyer-parents, studying law was also a consideration but I thought that would have to come much later. I never gave serious thought about careers because I felt that I would be equally successful with the rest. But this outlook in life can also prove a dilemma for being happy-go-lucky. And consequently to a certain extent I'm paying the price.

Twelve years ago I developed an interest in a specialized field not quite popular with students. At a time when a medical course (and subsequently a US visa) was quite the de rigeuer, I had my sights set on a less appreciated and much disparaged discipline in agriculture. While most wanted to be financial analysts or thought it glamorous to wipe somebody's behind, I was drawn to the dynamics of farming and the ways of increasing farm productivity. I was fascinated with its scientific and social relevance, entertaining the thought that to study this particular field of science would help ease the backbreaking toil of the deprived farmer.

Sadly, what could be a promising vocation turned out to be an upset what with the failing economy and continuous neglect for the sector. Technology is all around us while true land reform still remains elusive for the majority of the Filipino poor who depend on agriculture for income and employment. One by one, I studied the application of engineering theories to every farm operation, but as I went along I couldn't help but become cynical. What is the point of giving the farmer the mechanical advantage if he does not profit from the trade? Why should agricultural engineers harp about farm mechanization if the farmers don't own the resources? What good does engineering innovations bring to the farmer if he doesn't own the land?

Perhaps I am just being impatient. Or maybe activism got the better of me. The academic community then was a playground of sorts. I met a lot of student leaders who had genuine interest in people and the welfare of the powerless. Their idealism was contagious, their discourses insatiable and the stories of the revolution burned into my consciousness. My uninitiated mind was exposed to a lot of radical ideas and in the process learned to deconstruct the system. For a greater cause I was ready to leave behind a secure and comfortable life.

But then again the comfort of the status quo was too much to resist. When it was time to join the workforce, my grades were a mess and ultimately jeopardized my job applications. It was easy to do so before, but would I do the same today: walk out from the classroom, scream my lungs out and challenge the system? Young and fearless, I may have terribly romanticized the cause of the oppressed but I can only hope not to forget the lessons learned.

I have let loose important opportunities before and these omissions have done cumulative damage. Fortunately, breathers from the spells of unemployment come once in a while. Convincingly at times I believe being the product of the divine at work for which I am grateful.

Beyond short-term concerns and uncertainties, I know things change for the better. Having savored a number of accomplishments, still I'm not content by any means. I get sidelined a lot but there is every reason to be very much upbeat about the future. It is a matter of attitude and certainly anything that calls for major revamps can be done even when I hit the age of 30.

Sifting through the issues, I have arrived at some conclusions of the life that has been, the lessons of growing up, the missed opportunities, the hazards of adulthood and the things that made some difference. Because if I have to last a good lifetime, the focus is survival. The fact that competition is fierce compels me to work double time on the answers to what should be the best approach to the future.

Facing a transition, I am trying to reinvent and put things in perspective. Life is about risks whereas success demands more. Taking them on will raise expectations to a higher level and will bring lofty endeavors. Consequently, whatever gains, be it big or small, are sure signs of victories in the days ahead.

Certainly there is a lot to improve and I'm nowhere near finished. It is becoming clear that from now on I will define my goals, redefine the tools I need, look at the big picture and think about how to create a life that's fulfilling. I believe that destiny, like the elemental rainwater, will find its own level. And after the downpour, everything will be calm and peaceful once more.

Right now I don't have much to tell, well, not yet anyway but I'm working on it. Certainly I'm no way near my fullest potential. But whatever it is that I hope to accomplish, I'll make sure it will be a blast. Because wouldn't we want our life stories to end up with stirring conclusions? I do. Big time.

---

*Bayani Thaddeus U. Barcenas, 29, is an agricultural engineer, a degree he earned from UP Los Baños and is working for the government at present.*

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# LETTERS

## 'Wanton journalistic licentiousness?'

PRESIDENTIAL Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao called the INQUIRER's Oct. 28 banner headline misleading and unsupported by its banner story. I think Tiglao was being too kind. From where I sit, that INQUIRER headline was painfully unbecoming to the country's leading newspaper, and a disservice as much as a disappointment to its discerning readers.

Nowhere in the story was the word "ditch" attributed to anyone, least of all to former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, who was quoted instead as having advised President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to "discard some baggage" which were getting in the way of her administration's focus on its more important tasks.

But "ditch Mike" is nowhere near "discard baggage."

The President has already publicly censured her husband in her radio program. The Senate is already looking into the allegations against him. She cannot fire or dismiss him as he is not a government official in any official capacity, whether by election or by appointment.

And so how else, it must be asked, is President Macapagal to "ditch Mike"? Was the INQUIRER headline insinuating legal separation, or annulment or divorce? Surely, "ditch" connotes precisely these, as any editor must know. And just as surely, former Secretary Enriquez did not mean any of these.

I think that sensationalism, inaccuracy and irresponsibility are not and have never been part of the INQUIRER's brand of journalism. And especially for our country today—with her current difficulties and in the context of current global tensions—such wanton journalistic licentiousness can only do more harm than good.

I would be among the very first to buck any attempt to suppress press freedom. However, there is still such a thing as social responsibility, and this is incumbent on all citizens, including members of media. I trust both the INQUIRER and the rest of Philippine media would be mindful of this basic ethic in the future.—**ROBERT C. NACIANCENO, 19 Tagdalit St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City**

*WE don't believe we were inaccurate. The story itself was news precisely because of Enriquez's strong language. We winced at his choice of words. But there it was. And its meaning was clear as Enriquez particularly cited the President's husband as baggage.*

*The fact is the day after that headline, Enriquez himself in a TV interview clarified (and reiterated) that he, indeed, meant Mr. Arroyo as one of the President's baggage.*

*"To discard baggage" is to ditch; the former was too long to fit the very limited headline space. Had we used "discard" instead of "ditch," as in "Gloria told to discard Mike," it would have sounded harsher.*

*We did not insinuate legal separation, etc. You read too much in "ditch" when it could simply mean to keep someone out of harm's way.*

*We regret that you were pained by the INQUIRER's direct-to-the-point approach to the story. But then much of straightforward journalism hurts.*—**Ed.**

## That photo of GMA firing a gun

I WOULD like to react to Conrado de Quiros' Nov. 6 column regarding President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo being photographed firing a gun.

De Quiros himself admits he knows next to nothing about guns and even finds such scant knowledge "utterly useless." Useless even for discussing guns and gun control? Then why talk about guns at all? Isn't it intellectual dishonesty to talk about something one knows nothing about? Kind of like an airline pilot discussing how best to remove a brain tumor, isn't it?

The Peaceful, Responsible Owners of Guns (Progun) is campaigning for gun control and the Gunless Society and people like De Quiros are pushing for a gun ban. There's a world of difference here and, given the chance, we'll gladly explain. De Quiros shouldn't confuse the gun control situation here with that of the United States.

People power was non-violent? De Quiros should tell that to the families of the 12 civilians and two soldiers killed in gunfights during Edsa 1986. I was there too, on Cory Aquino's side. What about the firefights at Channels 4 and 9 and the bombing raids on Malacañang and Villamor Air Base, all by pro-Cory forces? Seemed pretty violent to me.

Progun does deplore and discourage the inordinate thinking associated with its stickers and since De Quiros himself is prone to the same thing, he is totally unqualified for one. But the same thing applies to press and media IDs, yet we hear no call, open or subliminal, from the media for banning their use. Also, that people sporting Progun stickers are more likely to pick a fight is pure conjecture and is unsubstantiated by official statistics.

The President firing a gun is a bad role model for the youth? What about our soldiers using guns to fight foreign aggression, is that a bad youth image, too? How about the ROTC, is that also bad? And how about Haydee Yorac's picture—and target board to boot—doing the same thing, displayed at the Commission on Elections in her 1992 stint as chair of its gun ban committee? The same Yorac who served a term as president of the Gunless Society.

More guns equals more crime? Simple but unassailable logic? Why don't we do it the academic way and quantify this hypothesis with the mathematical equation of guns equals crime or G=C? Sadly, we have no space here but rest assured we can totally demolish this argument, using the scientific method of officially verified data rather than opinion polls, if only we can be given the chance.—**MANNY MOLINA, Firearms Statistics and Research Division, Peaceful, Responsible Owners of Guns (Progun), QC**

## Really now

THIS is a reaction to the letter written by Teresita S. Castillo, chief of staff of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta on the recent hullabaloo over Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho's appointment.

Really now. Senator Oreta was surprised when Sen. Blas Ople asked about the poster? Why? Did Ople visit the Oreta neighborhood at the height of former President Estrada's impeachment trial and see for himself what was written on it? And simply remembered it when it was Camacho's turn at the Commission on Appointments?

I think not. Every question hurled at Camacho by Ople regarding the poster was premeditated and very well orchestrated.

The citizenry are intelligent, thinking people. Please do not insult us with such foolishness.—**ALEXANDRA ONG, 7242 Sta. Barbara St., Barangay Olympia, Makati City**

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## Party sterilizers and accidental tourists

THE OTHER day I received an e-mail from a Filipino warning about a "new drug" called Progesterex that, slipped into your drink, would knock you out and get you raped. Not only that, the drug was supposedly being used in veterinary medicine to sterilize horses so if you were unfortunate enough to drink it, you'd not only get raped but sterilized as well.

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

The first time I read it I could tell this was another one of those Internet hoaxes. It did help that my first college degree was in veterinary medicine—goodness, I thought, if they have a drug to sterilize horses then that would be great because now we can just sterilize stray dogs and cats without surgery. I checked with "Ask Alice," a health information service based at Columbia University in New York, and they did have a write-up on this issue—they'd checked with several US government agencies and veterinary schools and all said there is no such drug.

But it wasn't just the idea of a horse-sterilizing drug that made me skeptical. It was the whole tenor of the letter, a hysterical, alarmist tone that's almost tongue-in-cheek, meaning whoever wrote up these pieces was chuckling away as he or she concocted the rumor. Yet these letters are taken quite seriously, sometimes circulating around the Internet for years. The Progesterex hoax, for example, has been going around since 1998.

The Progesterex story is only one of thousands of urban legends. Also called urban myths, these are the modern-day versions of folk tales that are disseminated rapidly through the many rumor mills we've created: from the old gossip grapevines to the Internet and, in the Philippines, cell phone text messages. Entire books have been written about these urban legends, and now there are even Internet sites that compile these urban legends, some with very good critiques of each of these myths.

My favorite one is www.snopes2.com, managed by a couple, Barbara and David Mikkelson, who have catalogued hundreds of urban myths by topic: from history to sex to "Toxin du Jour (Toxin of the Day)" which, incidentally, includes that horse-sterilizing tale. The Mikkelsons don't stop at listing the urban myths. Instead, they go to classify each of these myths as "true," "false" or "indeterminate," and to comment on each of the myths, complete with references to support or refute the stories.

Why do these urban legends exist? For the same reasons why we have rumors and gossip. These stories flourish in times of uncertainty—we certainly know that in the Philippines, with new coup rumors coming up every other week. Urban legends capitalize on people's fears—the many stories related to rape, from taxi drivers to drugs like Progesterex, reflect women's vulnerability. The Mikkelsons' website has a whole section on rumors that have exploded following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the rumors reflecting how people's anxieties have reached new, almost ridiculous, heights.

Urban legends will name sources, or refer to someone who has supposedly experienced some adverse event. A rumor going around about Los Angeles about to be attacked on Oct. 26 names "an Arab neighbor of a friend living in Los Angeles" who suddenly moves out and warns his friends to stay away from the city between Oct. 26 and 28.

The voices of "authority" vary, sometimes involving people long dead. Right after the Sept. 11 attacks there was a mad flurry of text messages, followed by Internet postings of passages supposedly written by the 16th century French physician, writer and mystic Nostradamus. Supposedly, he had predicted the attack and that this would be the start of World War III. The Mikkelson couple did their homework and found the passages were fabricated.

For a society obsessed with predictions, we Filipinos should note the Mikkelsons' challenge to Nostradamus followers to cite his other passages to predict events long before they happen, not after a disaster's transpired. The Mikkelsons also point out the predictions should not be something as general as "a Middle East crisis."

Let's do a quick rundown of other post-Sept. 11 urban legends: "seven women died after sniffing perfume samples from the mail," "a man survives the bombing by sliding down 82 stories of debris," "an unburned Bible was found in the charred wreckage of the Pentagon."

Many of these stories reflect a need to look for hope, maybe even miracles, in times of despair. Urban legends also reflect our need to look for simplistic solutions to complex problems. The anthrax scare has produced its own crop of rumors, for example, that garlic and oil of oregano, or ironing suspicious mail, will kill the bacteria's spores.

I could go on but advise you to just visit the urban legends site. Teachers might want to assign the site to their students to help them to hone critical thinking skills. For example, you can download, from one of the urban legends websites, a photograph of "The Accidental Tourist," showing a man posing in what looks like the observation deck of a tall building. In the background there's a plane flying in, about to hit the building. The photograph has a stamped date: Sept. 11, 2001. Supposedly, the picture was printed out of negatives taken from a camera found in the World Trade Center's rubble.

Oh, how horrible, you react. Then you notice the man is posing in full winter gear—thick jacket, ski cap. Okay so maybe he was unfashionable and scared of the cool fall weather of September, but a kid would ask, "How could the photographer have stayed so calm to shoot the picture, with the jet in full sight, coming straight at you?"

* * *

*Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net*

## Filipinos in Australia

I PROBABLY write on behalf of many Filipinos in Australia when we thank your columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan for writing about us in her column last week and the other day. We are very lucky that we have migrated to Australia.

It would have been good if Cunanan had waited for the federal election on Nov. 10. She could have easily observed that the election campaign is not marred by killings. And there are no flying voters, cheating, vote buying and no free food and transport. Voting is compulsory. Political parties spend for the campaign and their candidates. And so winners don't work to recover their expenses as they have no money to be recovered. They did not spend during the campaign.

Filipinos here are hard-working, honest, law-abiding and religious. When they work eight hours a day, they really work eight hours and not seven or six hours. They obey traffic rules and regulations. Why can't Filipinos in Metro Manila and other Philippine cities do the same?—**OSCAR R. LANDICHO, Sydney, Australia, orlandicho@ hotmail.com**

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# The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

# Bush: Bin Laden seeking 'evil weapons'

**WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush warned that Osama bin Laden is seeking chemical, biological and nuclear weapons to pursue "mad global ambitions." To stop him, the United States needs action from its allies, not merely sympathy, the president said Tuesday.**

"This is an evil man that we're dealing with, and I wouldn't put it past him to develop evil weapons to try to harm civilization as we know it," Bush said after an Oval Office meeting with French President Jacques Chirac.

Bush's remarks were intended to heighten the urgency of the showdown with Bin Laden, his al-Qaida network and the Taliban regime harboring them in Afghanistan. By underscoring what's at stake, Bush sought to strengthen the resolve of allies and steel Americans for a long war with the prospect of many casualties.

The president also addressed leaders from Central and Eastern Europe, warning that al-Qaida terrorists operate in more than 60 countries. "They're seeking chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Given the means, our enemies would be a threat to every nation; and, eventually, to civilization itself."

The presidential events opened a 10-day public relations offensive, including meetings all week with world leaders, an address in Atlanta on the nation's defenses, a United Nations speech this weekend and a summit next week with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Bush meets Wednesday at the White House with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the staunchest US ally against terrorism.

Polls show deep support for the president along with some concerns about the war in Afghanistan and the US government's handling of anthrax scares.

Blair said the public tends to want fast results, and needed to be constantly reminded why war is necessary. "We need to steady people," he told CNN television.

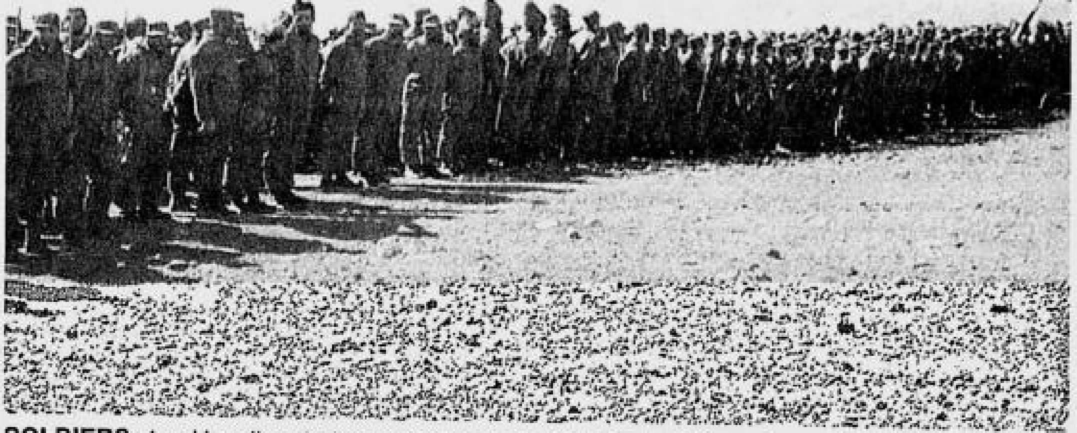
Backing up Bush, the British prime minister said terrorists responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks would gladly use weapons of mass destruction. "If they could have killed not 6,000 innocent people but 60,000 or even 600,000, they would," he said.

Bush said that Bin Laden had called it a religious duty to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

"I believe we need to take him seriously," the president said. "That's why we're going to keep relentless military pressure on him in Afghanistan."

"We will not wait for more innocent deaths," Bush said. "We must act now because we must lift this dark threat from our age."

US officials said they believed al-Qaida had access to crude chemical weapons such as chlorine and phosgene poison gases, but not more complex weapons such as sarin gas. There is ample evidence that al-Qaida sought nuclear material, though it's not clear whether the group is capable of using it, according to top Bush advisers. *AP*



**SOLDIERS** stand in a line during military parade of Northern Alliance forces in Jabal Saraj, 60 km north of Kabul.

AP

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# US jets pound Taliban frontline

JABAL SARAJ, Afghanistan—US warplanes bombed behind frontline Taliban positions north of Kabul on Wednesday in an effort to weaken defenses and allow opposition troops to advance toward the capital.

Witnesses said they did not hear antiaircraft fire from Taliban fighters, who have periodically tried to shoot down US jets since the bombing began exactly a month ago.

However, there were no signs that the Afghan opposition, a loose coalition of fighters dominated by ethnic minority Tajiks and Uzbeks, was on the offensive at the frontline north of Kabul.

But the opposition Northern Alliance did claim progress Wednesday on another main front, near the strategic northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Alliance troops were forcing the Taliban to withdraw from Shol Gar district, 40 km south of the city, opposition spokesperson Ashraf Nadeem said by satellite telephone. He said 500 Taliban soldiers had crossed over to the opposition side.

The claims could not be independently confirmed, and the Taliban previously denied reports of defections from their ranks.

Backed by heavy US bombing, the Northern Alliance said Tuesday it captured several areas to the south of the city. Still, winter is closing in and bad weather could choke off supply routes for troops.

To the north of Kabul, witnesses said US jets dropped dozens of bombs late Tuesday and two bombs early Wednesday behind the frontline, about 50 km north of the capital. Some explosions were followed by up to 30 smaller detonations. *AP*

# US probes hawalas

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration is investigating Islamic money exchanges—including some in the United States—suspected of funneling millions of dollars to Osama bin Laden's terror network.

German authorities say some of the financial activities helping terrorists appear to have involved outlets in the United States. Administration officials said one of the exchanges—known as hawalas—appears to be owned partly by Bin Laden.

The investigation is part of US President George W. Bush's effort to dry up terrorist money supplies. He plans to make an announcement Wednesday on a major development in the effort, aides said on condition of anonymity.

Federal officials are investigating several informal money exchange offices based in the United States, including one believed to be partly owned by Bin Laden, two administration officials said Tuesday night.

The officials, speaking anonymously, said the informal, hard-to-trace financial exchanges had funneled millions of dollars between countries to help finance terrorism.

Investigators had long suspected Bin Laden of using hawalas, but the investigations' focus on US entities was a new development, officials said.

A task force headed by Treasury, the CIA and the FBI have investigated the hawalas with an eye toward evaporating them and their assets. *AP*

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# Media mogul elected New York mayor

NEW YORK—Republican Michael Bloomberg, a media mogul with no political experience, defeated veteran Democrat Mark Green for mayor of embattled New York City. Democrats captured governorships in Virginia and New Jersey, breaking eight years of Republican control in each state.

Bloomberg, who trailed badly in the polls just a few weeks ago in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans 5-1, will succeed Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican barred from seeking a third term. A billionaire former Democrat, Bloomberg will take charge of the daunting efforts to rebuild New York after the Sept. 11 terror attack on the World Trade Center.

"New York is alive and well and open for business," Bloomberg declared in his victory speech.

With all precincts reporting, Bloomberg had 719,819 votes, or 50 percent, to Green's 676,560, or 47 percent.

Green, the city's elected public advocate, spent about $12 million on his campaign, while Bloomberg, owner of the Bloomberg financial information company, was expected to spend more than $50 million of his own money. It was the most expensive mayoral campaign in US history, according to the citizen lobbying group Common Cause.

Green's once-large lead in the polls faded after the popular Giuliani endorsed Bloomberg.

"We gave it our all and it wasn't enough," Green said. "I ask the city to support him."

In Virginia, Democrat Mark Warner, a wealthy entrepreneur who has never held elected office, beat Republican Mark Earley, a former state attorney general. With all precincts reporting, Warner had 994,399 votes, or 52 percent, to 893,232, or 47 percent, for Earley,

Earley was handicapped by Republican infighting over taxes and the state budget. Warner put $4.7 million of his own fortune into a campaign that has raised $18.2 million, a state record.

Warner's fellow Democrat, Timothy Kaine, was elected lieutenant governor. But the Republicans, who control the legislature, gained 12 seats in the House of Delegates.

In New Jersey, Democrat Jim McGreevey, a suburban mayor who narrowly lost a race for governor four years ago, rolled to a landslide victory over former Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler. Democrats also won control of the New Jersey Assembly from the Republicans and gained five seats in the state Senate for a 20-20 split.

With 97 percent of the precincts reporting, McGreevey had 1,200,253 votes, or 56 percent, to 901,634 votes, or 42 percent, for Schundler.

McGreevey had tried to portray Schundler as an extremist for his opposition to abortion and support of school vouchers that could be used to pay for private school tuition. Schundler charged that McGreevey would raise taxes.

With the victories, there will be 21 Democratic governors, 27 Republicans and two independents.

*AP*

**MICHAEL** Bloomberg (center), flanked by New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (left) and New York Gov. George Pataki, celebrate Bloomberg's victory.

AP

# Worst of anthrax attack may be over

WASHINGTON—Investigators are using subway computer records to trace every step a New York woman took before she died from inhaled anthrax, hoping to solve the mystery of how she could have run into the deadly germ.

Eight days after the last anthrax diagnosis, a top federal health official said the worst of the anthrax-by-mail episode may be over.

"For this episode, we're out of the woods," said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health.

The big fear had been that the New York woman was the first victim of an anthrax attack by some means other than mail, but "every day that goes by without seeing another unexplained inhalation case makes it less and less likely" that that happened, said Fauci.

But another attack, either via newly mailed anthrax-tainted letters or some other means, cannot be ruled out—particularly until the death of Kathy Nguyen is solved, said Dr. James Hughes of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Vigilance is heightened around the country," he said.

Last week, Nguyen became the fourth person to die from inhaled anthrax in the outbreak that began with the September mailing of tainted letters to news media in Florida and New York, and to Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle in Washington, DC.

Those letters are presumed to have left a trail of contamination in post offices and government buildings along the East Coast of the US, but traces have been found in the Midwest and as far away as Russia, in a diplomatic mailbag sent to a US consulate.

Officials in New York were using a number of methods to try to track Nguyen's last moments.

"We're using several items, such as her Metrocard," said Deputy Police Chief Joseph Reznick. "We know what days she was at work. We know what hours she worked. We've seen phone records, of course. But absent those items, there's very little for us to go on."

A Metrocard is a computer-coded prepaid ticket for use in the city's bus and subway system. The system records the time and place a ticket holder used the system. Nguyen used the subway to commute from her home in the Bronx to her workplace in the stockroom at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. *AP*

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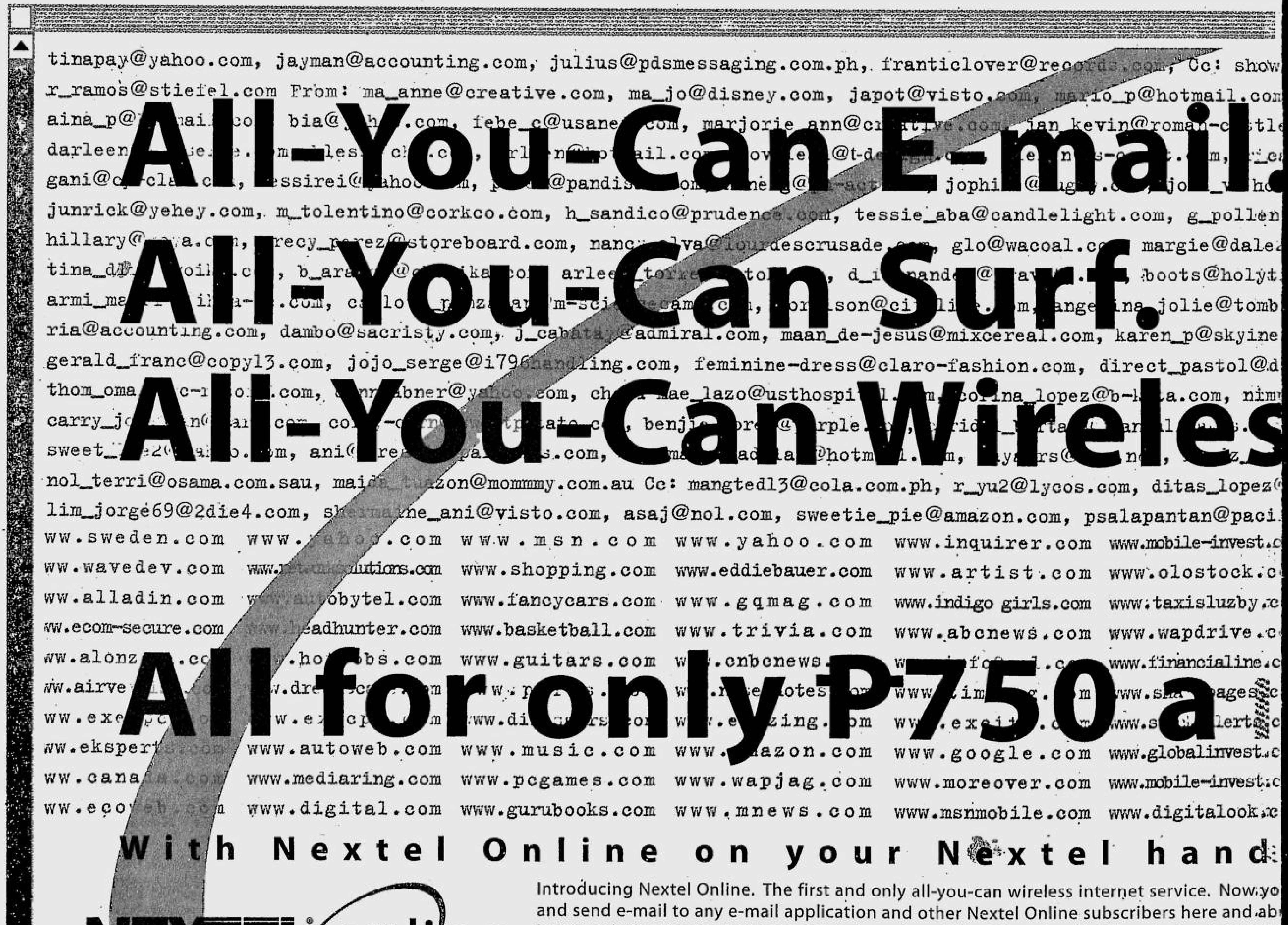

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# Israel forces pull out of West Bank town

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli tanks and troops pulled back early Wednesday from Ramallah, the seat of Palestinian government and commerce, as Israel's largest military operation in the West Bank in years was drawing to an end.

Two Israeli tanks and an armored personnel carrier rolled away from the northern entrance of the town toward the Israeli settlement of Beit El, as Palestinian security forces moved in, witnesses said.

In a statement, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said his forces would maintain their cordon around the town, taking positions just outside Ramallah. He said Israel would hold Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority responsible for preventing attacks against Israelis.

Meanwhile, violence continued in another part of the West Bank, near the city of Nablus. In a clash, three Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed on Tuesday, but the two sides differed over the circumstances.

A statement from the Islamic militant Hamas group said three Palestinians opened fire on an Israeli patrol, killing an officer, before they were killed. The Israeli military said that in the initial clash, one Palestinian was killed and another wounded, and as the confrontation developed, two more were killed.

However, a Palestinian witness said Israeli soldiers executed the three Palestinians after they were wounded.

Palestinian rescue worker Kamal el Hinai said he was standing about 50 meters from the Palestinians, who were on the ground. "About seven or eight soldiers, they made a circle and surrounded the bodies and opened fire on the ground," he said.

The Israeli military denied that soldiers executed wounded Palestinians, but Palestinian officials demanded an international inquiry.

Also Tuesday, two militants from Arafat's Fatah group were killed in a blast in a car in Jenin. The Israeli government said that the two, suspected in several incidents of violence against Israelis, were killed as they tried to construct a car bomb. *AP*

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

**REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Preliminary injunction**—Preliminary injunction is an order granted at any stage of an action or proceeding prior to the judgment or final order, requiring a party or a court, agency or a person to refrain from a particular act or acts. Before a writ of preliminary injunction may be issued, there must be a clear showing by the complaint that there exists a right to be protected and that the acts against which the writ is to be directed are violative of the said right. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Shin v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 113627, February 6, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Thursday, November 8, 2001**
**31st Week in Ordinary Time**

**1st Reading:** **Rom 14:7-12**
**Gospel:** **Lk 15:1-10**

Tax collectors and sinners were seeking the company of Jesus, all of them eager to hear what he had to say. But the Pharisees and the scribes frowned at this, muttering. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and seek out the lost one till he finds it? And finding it, will he not joyfully carry it home on his shoulders? Then he will call his friends and neighbors together and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, just so, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine upright who do not need to repent.

What woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one, will not light a lamp and sweep the house in a thorough search till she finds the lost coin? And finding it, she will call her friends and neighbors and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found the silver coin I lost!' I tell you, in the same way there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner."

**Commentary**

*In ancient Jewish society, the pious people should not associate with the sinners, like prostitutes and tax collectors. However, Jesus does the opposite and the Pharisees and scribes complain. So he narrates his parables. In the first parable, the lost sheep, only one out of a hundred, negligible to our business world, is always important to the shepherd. For him, finding it calls for a celebration. In the second story, a poor woman loses just a coin. Its value at that time is about a laborer's daily wage. Not much to many of us! But when she finds it, she has great joy. Jesus seeks sinners and heaven celebrates their homecoming. No lost soul should fear from getting back to God's fold.*

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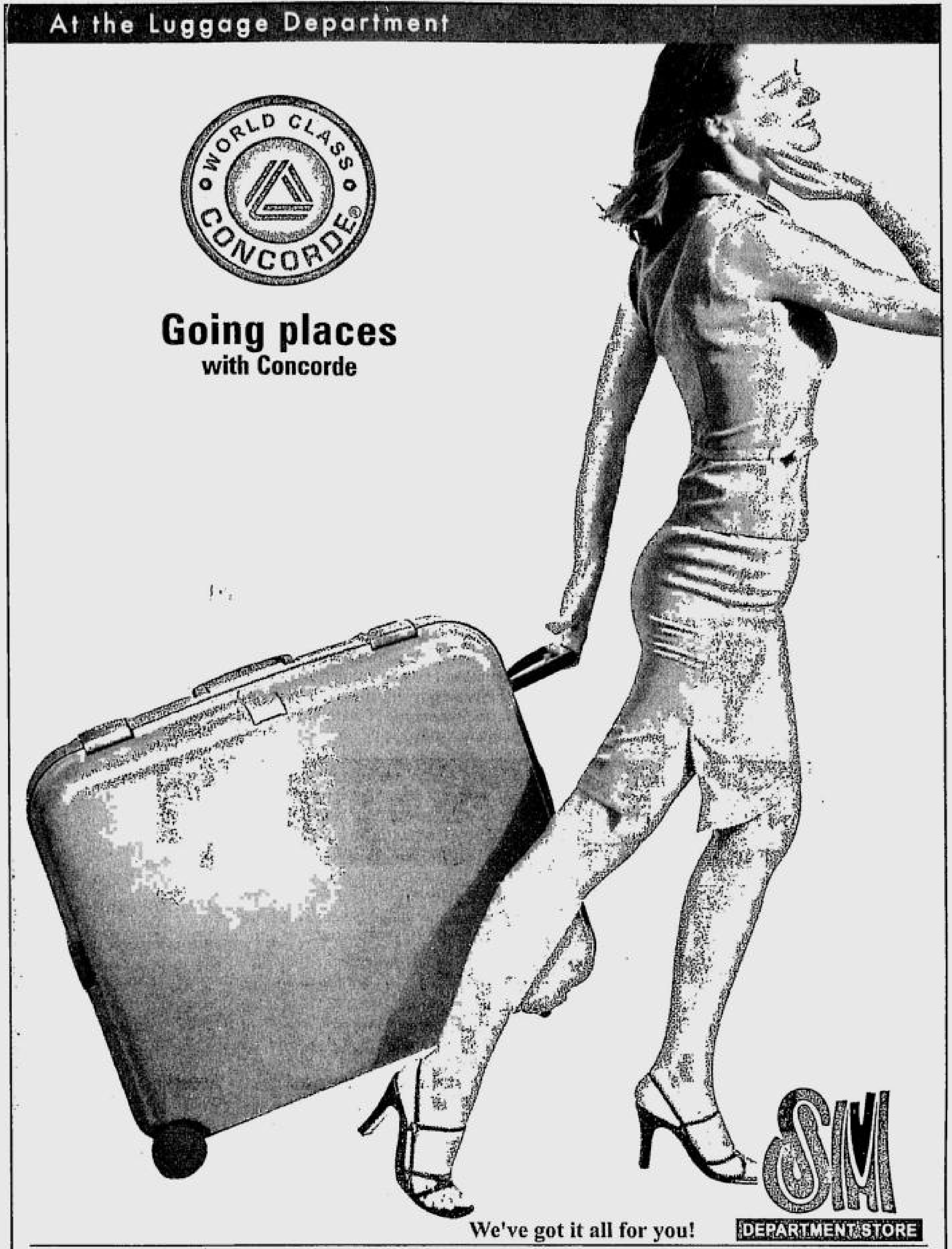
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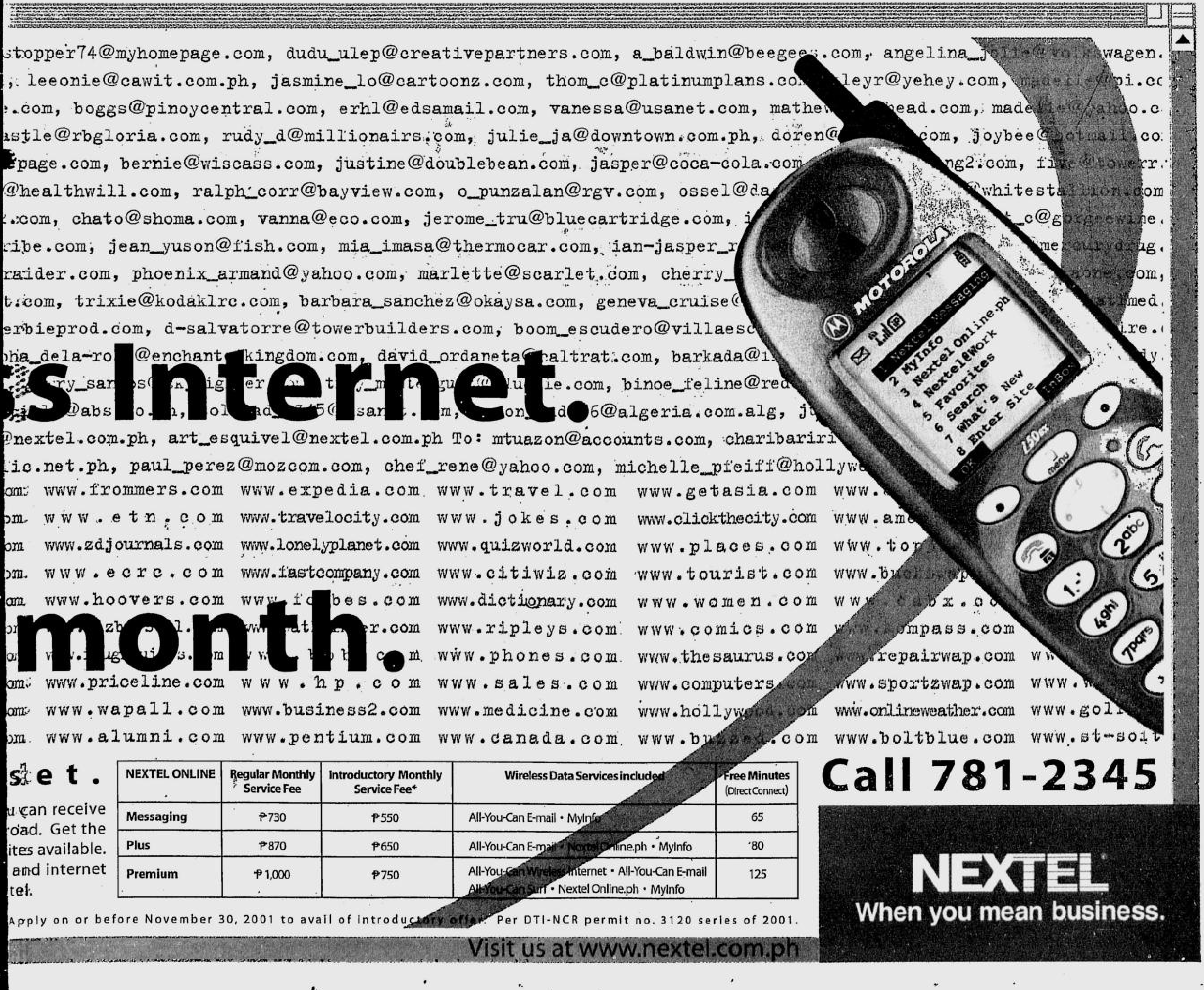

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# Across the NATION

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## WEATHER FORECAST

**FORECAST:** Central and Western Visayas and the Southernmost part of Southern Luzon will experience stormy weather and its coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Southern Luzon and Visayas will have widespread rains and ocassional gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 29° Lo 23° |
| **Baguio** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 23° Lo 15° |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 21° |
| **Laoag** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 24° |
| **Clark Zone** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 30° Lo 23° |
| **Tagaytay** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 27° Lo 20° |
| **Legazpi** | Stormy | HI 28° Lo 24° |
| **Calapan** | Stormy | HI 29° Lo 24° |
| **Bacolod** | Stormy | HI 29° Lo 22° |
| **Roxas** | Stormy | HI 28° Lo 23° |
| **Cebu** | Stormy | HI 28° Lo 23° |
| **Tacloban** | Stormy | HI 28° Lo 22° |
| **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 23° |
| **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 30° Lo 24° |
| **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 30° Lo 23° |
| **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 24° |

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/08/01

## ROUNDUP

### 700 youths visit Cebu

CEBU CITY—Close to 700 members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) from Batangas are in Cebu for a four-day educational trip. The group led by Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas arrived on Monday and paid a courtesy call on Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia. Mandanas said the trip was to taken to enable the SK members to see the development in other parts of the country and to appreciate the country's culture and history. He said they visited Cebu first because the provincial government is known to have excelled in governance.

*Debra Jane Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Fratman faces suit

CEBU CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation here on Monday filed frustrated murder charges at the provincial prosecutor's office against Joel Languido, a member of the Tau Gamma fraternity for shooting Cesar Saavedra Jr. at a public cemetery in Talisay City on All Souls' Day. Saavedra remains comatose at the Chong Hua Hospital. Languido and other Tau Gamma members were drinking liquor when Saavedra and a friend passed near them. After learning that Saavedra's friend was a member of a rival fraternity, they approached the two and started hitting them. Saavedra tried to protect his friend but Languido allegedly shot him in the nape.

*Debra Jane Magallon, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Truck pins man to death

PAGBILAO, Quezon—A truck helper was pinned to death by the wayward cargo truck he was riding in when it turned turtle after the driver lost control of the vehicle on the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Silangang Malicboy here Thursday. Police identified the victim as Lazaro Visto, resident of Barangay Ibayo, Marilao, Bulacan. The truck, loaded with steel bars and driven by Jomel Visto, was cruising downhill when it lost its brakes. The driver suffered serious injuries and was rushed to the Quezon Memorial Hospital in Lucena City.

*Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Cop nabbed for drugs

PAGBILAO, Quezon—Police arrested former policeman Roland Pedernal at the CRDC Subdivision, Barangay Bukal here on Friday. The suspect, wanted for robbery and violation of the Anti-Drugs Law, was formerly assigned at the Narcotics Command at Camp Crame. Pedernal was served with a warrant of arrest issued by the Regional Trial Court in Lucena City.

*Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Prisoners bolt jail

NAGA CITY—Three armed prisoners escaped from the Baao, Camarines Sur jail on Sunday after destroying the iron bars of their cell and injuring and disarming the lone guard, police said. The escapees were identified as Juan Botor, Roberto Vigan and Brian Makalintal who were accused of murder and frustrated murder. The escapees took the jail guard's service firearm and a shotgun.

*Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Cop dies in attack

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A police officer died while another was seriously wounded when suspected New People's Army rebels shot them in Barangay San Rafael here on Sunday noon. PO1 Ronnie Dalingding, 25, died on the spot when an unidentified man, armed with a .45 cal. pistol, shot him in the head and other parts of the body. Dalingding's companion, PO1 Noel Docto, 28, remains in critical condition at the Adventist Hospital. The suspected rebels took with them a cellular phone, wallet and two guns. *Jofelle Tesorio and Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Suspected rebs kill 2

DAVAO CITY--Suspected New People's Army rebels killed two of their former supporters in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur on Saturday, the police said. SPO4 Bonifacio Giger, Sta. Cruz police investigator, said Zaldy Saroza, 57, and Rodolfo Genobesa, 45, died on the spot, after the suspects fired at the house they were sleeping in around 1 a.m. Giger said the victims used to be NPA couriers. Two men were killed when suspected NPA rebels fired at them last Saturday in Upper Tacub, Zone I, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

*Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### MILF rebels surrender

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—At least 12 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front surrendered to the government during a ceremony at the headquarters of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion in Baloi, Lanao del Norte on Nov. 3. Maj. Johnny Macunas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based here, said the former rebels belonged to the 21st battalion of the Inner Guard Brigade of the Bangsamoro Islamic Security Force under a certain Commander Palao Muctar. They also turned over their firearms.

*Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# 57 dead in typhoon 'Nanang'

**FLOODWATER** overflows from the Mananga River in Talisay, Cebu at the height of Typhoon Nanang. ARLENE SOLIS CHUA

TYPHOON "Nanang" swept across parts of the Visayas and Mindanao leaving in its path a death toll that as of yesterday stood at 57. Dozens of other people were declared missing.

Simeon Gomez, provincial disaster coordinating council official of Camiguin, said as of 5 p.m. the death toll in the province was 54.

Gomez identified two of those killed as Rommel Maderal, 2, and Girlie Maderal, 20.

In the Visayas, six persons, including two children, drowned while close to a thousand families were evacuated yesterday in Cebu and Negros Occidental due to heavy rains spawned by Nanang.

The storm also forced the suspension of classes in Leyte, Cebu, Iloilo, Southern Leyte, Samar, Biliran, Northern Samar, Bohol, Siquijor, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental and Eastern Samar.

Cebu was badly hit among the Visayan provinces where floodwaters spawned by Nanang destroyed two footbridges, a wharf, and at least 70 houses.

At least seven persons were trapped inside an abandoned mining pit of the Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. (ACMDC) in Toledo City, which collapsed at 3:30 p.m. yesterday.

Cebu City was placed under a state of calamity yesterday after 11 barangays were submerged in floodwaters, leaving at least 700 families displaced.

### Landslides

Landslides were reported in Barangays Sudlon I, Kalunasan, Babag I, Guadalupe. No casualties were reported.

In Cebu province, badly hit by the typhoon were the cities of Toledo and Talisay and the towns of Naga, Minglanilla and Carcar where 147 families were displaced.

Floodwaters in these areas were reportedly waist-high especially in Talisay City.

Two sisters drowned while their older brother and grandfather remained missing after they were swept by floodwaters in Toledo City.

Killed were Jamaica Paraiso, 4 and her sister, Debbie, 3, residents of Barangay Cantabaco, a mountain village in Toledo City.

Missing were their grandfather, Romeo, 70, and brother Banjao, 7.

Operations were ongoing to rescue the seven persons trapped inside the mining pit in the ACMDC compound in Barangay Don Andres Soriano, Toledo.

### Pit victims

Senior Supt. Jose Antonio Salvacion, Cebu police director, said the seven were employees of the ACMDC and Jonan Construction Corp. He, however, could not say what the employees were doing inside the mining pit.

Toledo City Mayor Arlene Espinosa-Zambo said the two companies did not ask permission from the city government to conduct any operation inside the abandoned mines.

The typhoon also destroyed a wharf in Daan Bantayan town, Cebu. Landslide also occurred in the Trans-central Highway that connects Cebu City and Balamban town.

In Naga town, two footbridges, which connects South Poblacion and Barangay Tinaan, were destroyed by flashflood. A landslide also occurred in Barangay Lutac, Naga but no one was reported hurt.

Angel Gaviola, executive director of the Civil Defense in Central Visayas, said no untoward incident was reported in Siquijor and in Negros Oriental.

But he said he received reports that rivers in Inabanga and Loboc towns in Bohol had overflowed.

Gaviola said the lines of the Philippine Long Distance Telecommunication Company were reportedly cut off in Bohol.

In Negros Occidental, four persons drowned in Cadiz and Kabankalan cities yesterday.

But only two fatalities were identified. They were Renante Villaceran, 25, of Cadiz, and Nenita Ricaplaza of Kabankalan.

A report of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council showed that Villaceran and his two companions were trying to bring to shore their bancas.

### Waves

But big waves caused the boat's outrigger to hit his head, knocking him unconscious. He was later swept by strong currents.

Ricaplaza and his two unidentified companions also drowned after they were carried by floodwaters while trying to cross the bridge in Barangay Oringao, Kabankalan.

Thirty-nine families were evacuated in Cadiz and Binalbagan towns after their houses were swept by floodwaters.

The PDCC-Negros Occidental also reported that floodwater was two meters deep in San Carlos City. The towns of Binalbagan, Cauayan, Isabela and Ilog towns were being closely watched due to rising water levels in these areas.

Moderate rain and wind were reported in Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Guimaras. The PDCCs in these provinces had been alerted while search and rescue groups were activated as the storm was expected to hit Panay Island at 3 p.m.

In Eastern Visayas, several low-lying areas in Leyte and Samar were flooded due to the continuous heavy rain spawned by Nanang.

Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla ordered members of the PDCC, which she chairs, to monitor flood-prone areas in the province.

Acting Mayor Iluminado Lantajo Jr. of Sta. Fe, Leyte reported to the PDCC that floods occurred in Barangays San Miguel, San Isidro, San Roque and Badyangay in the municipality.

### Whirlwind

In Camiguin, whirlwind stirred by Nanang dealt the most painful blow.

The death toll continued to increase but officials gave conflicting figures.

The number of dead was lower earlier.

Camiguin's provincial social welfare office said 24 persons were killed and 57 others were missing as of 4 p.m.

The Army's 4th Infantry Division in Camiguin said its list of fatalities totaled 21 while those missing reached 103.

But Lito Lopeña, spokesperson of Gov. Pedro Romualdo, said reports reaching the provincial governor's office indicated that as of 3:31 p.m. yesterday, there were already 29 persons dead while 67 individuals were missing.

He said 18 people were killed and 41 were missing in Mahinog town, the center of the whirlwind; seven were killed and two missing in Sagay; one dead and 14 missing in Catarman; seven reported missing in Guinsilban; and three killed in Mambajao, the capital town.

Carol Falmarin, special operations officer of the Provincial Social Welfare Office, told the INQUIRER that at least a hundred families have fled to the Mambajao Elementary Central School and more than 50 families to the Mahinog Public Market.

Displaced residents of Sagay town have sought refuge in their relatives' homes.

### Death toll

Julius de la Rosa, provincial disaster coordinating officer, said they were expecting the death toll to increase as rescue workers were delayed in reaching the worst hit areas because of damaged roads and bridges late afternoon yesterday.

Catarman town Mayor Quintilianito Babarin reported that the Diningasan Bridge collapsed when heavy rains triggered a flashflood.

Casiano Matela, chief of the Office of the Civil Defense, identified three of the casualties as Linda Abao, Alicia Ranan, and Felipa Ranan.

Most of the victims are yet to be identified.

Matela told the INQUIRER that the National Disaster Coordinating Council had sent P200,000 in financial aid to the victims while the National Food Authority was readying sacks of rice for the victims.

Nelson Dychauco, chief of the Hibok-Hibok Emergency Alert Rescue Team (HEART), said communications to and from Camiguin is becoming difficult after Nanang downed power lines.

He said at least 70 percent of the telephone lines on the island bogged down, making it more difficult for them to check the situation in other areas.

Shirley Almazan, officer in charge of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) in Cagayan de Oro, said storm signal No. 1 was declared all over Camiguin yesterday.

But Almazan said the wind speed slowed down to 15 kilometers per hour from the previous 24 kilometers per hour as the typhoon moved toward the provinces of Mindoro and Calamian Islands.

"Hopefully, storm signal No. 1 will be lifted on Thursday," she said.

The Philippine Coast Guard also suspended ferry trips early yesterday. Hundreds of commuters going to and from Camiguin were stranded because of the absence of ferryboats.

The coast guard said it could not compromise the safety of passengers, as the weather remains uncertain.

Even rescue and supply aircraft from the Air Force have to be grounded because of zero visibility. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Debra Jane Magallon, Carla Gomez, Vicente Labro, Cynthia Borgueta, Joey Gabieta and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau and Grace Cantal-Albasin, Butch Enerio with a report from Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# *Typhoon sets tone for RP's 1st conference on rainwater harvest*

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—While heavy rains spawned by Typhoon Nanang disrupted classes and commercial activities in this city, some 100 advocates of rainwater harvesting here were thanking the heavens yesterday for the rains that seemed to have set the tone of their conference.

"Rains brought by typhoon and floods are not a problem as long as they are not accompanied by strong winds," said Jessica Salas, chair of the Philippine Management Coalition (PMC).

She said a right attitude toward rain and floods should be cultivated. For many water stressed areas, rain recharges the parched aquifers, streams and shallow wells. Floods cleanse and provide water to areas that have been dried up by lack of rain.

The PMC played host to the two-day first Philippine workshop on ecological rainwater harvesting, which kicked off yesterday at the Punta Villa Resort, this city.

Participants to the conference included governors, mayors, rainwater harvesting advocates, as well as national and international experts on rainwater harvesting.

They will spend two days discussing issues on water, rainwater and poverty, water-borne diseases, the best practices in collecting rainwater and the use of rainwater in preventing floods.

Raoul Geollegue, Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional executive director, said rainwater harvesting should be practiced in the uplands for household use and to recharge Iloilo's critical watersheds.

"What good are our watersheds if the rivers and streams are dried up during summer?" he said.

Johannes Paul of the German Development Service, estimates that if the Philippines' 80 million population need an average of 100 liters of water a day at P20 per cubic meter, the total water needs of the country translate to P160 million a day.

Paul said rainwater is a resource the country has to tap because it cannot rely on ground and surface water alone for its growing water needs.

Pollution from pesticides, lubricants and other harmful chemicals have seeped into the water table and contaminated the streams, which are the primary sources of piped water.

He said one liter of oil pollutants is enough to contaminate one million liters of water.

The quality of ground and surface water was also discussed. Many participants said the government should have a policy to tap the heaven-sent waters instead of just giving away hand pumps and pipes in order to win votes.

Edgar Viterbo of the Philippine Center for Water Sanitation also criticized the bottled water business, which is fast growing in the country.

The marketing hypes of water bottling companies promote the notion that rainwater and tap water are inferior to bottled water, he said.

Viterbo said bottled water is being marketed as being drawn from pristine sources even if some bottling companies often get their water from the taps and simply sterilize or distill them.

# 5-unit team formed to probe judge's murder

LAOAG CITY—Police have formed a five-unit task force to track down the assailants of a regional trial court judge who was ambushed in Batac town on Wednesday last week.

The task force—composed of members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Ilocos Norte police office, the Badoc and Batac police forces and the Philippine National Police crime laboratory—has begun questioning witnesses on the ambush-slaying of Judge Ariston Rubio, executive judge of the RTC in Batac.

Among these witnesses, police said, were a tricycle driver and several passengers of mini-buses who were on the ambush site.

Witnesses saw four gunmen shooting Rubio while he was on his way to a scheduled hearing on Oct. 31.

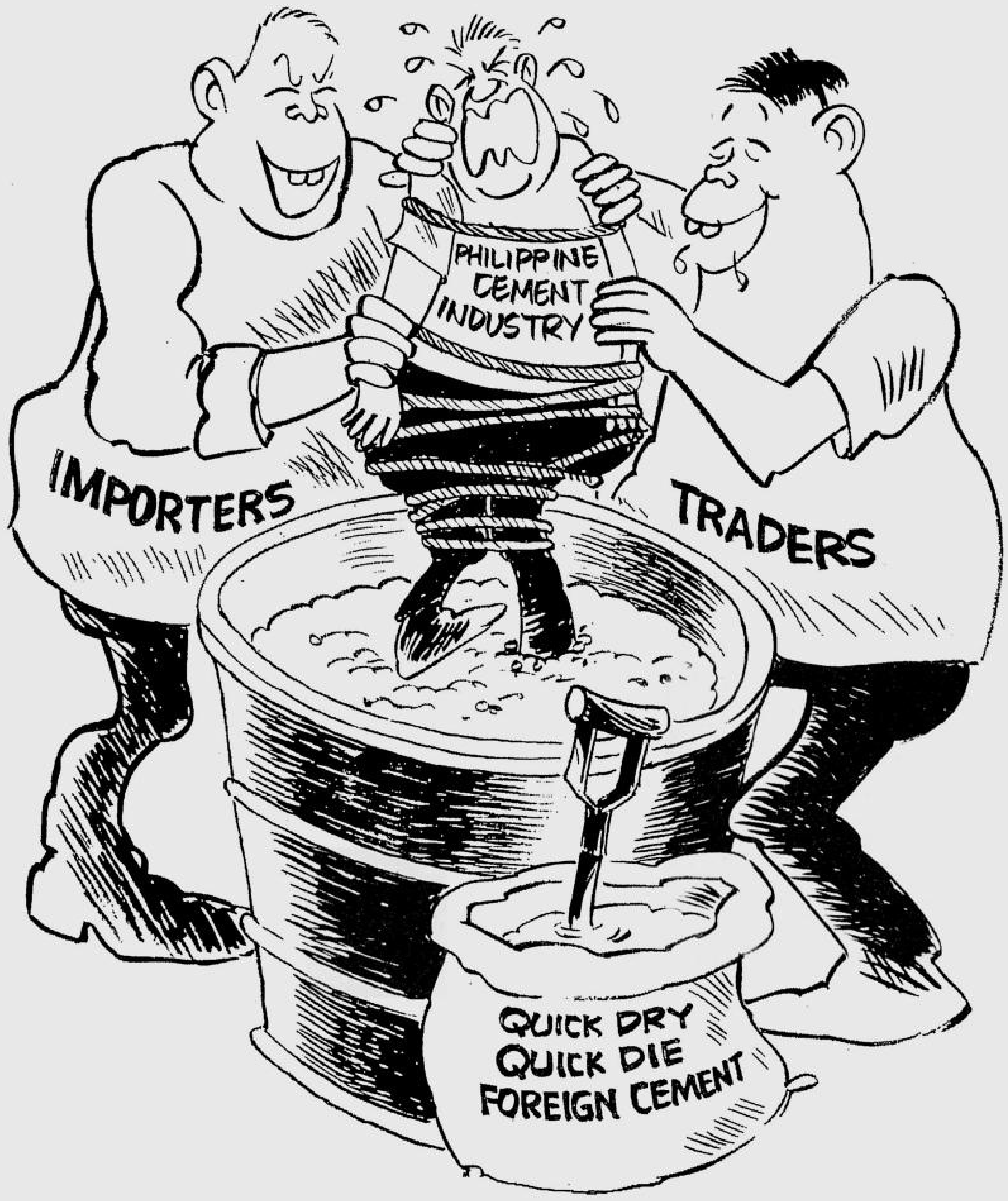
They said the gunmen were on board two motorcycles and wore either masks or helmets when they attacked and shot Rubio along a section of the Batac-Currimao road that was being repaired.

As this developed, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Ilocos Norte chapter announced it will create a special panel of lawyers to help in the prosecution of Rubio's killers once the police identified the suspects.

Lawyer Rogelio Bacolor, IBP president, said they would extend all the necessary assistance to Rubio's family to give justice to the judge whom they consider a personal friend and a fraternity brother of the Alpha Phi Beta, the alumni law chapter of the University of the Philippines.

*Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# PESO WISE BUT BILLIONS OF PESOS FOOLISH


PHILIPPINE CEMENT INDUSTRY
IMPORTERS
TRADERS
QUICK DRY QUICK DIE FOREIGN CEMENT

Today, cement importers dump imported cement indiscriminately.

They exploit the fallacy of cheap prices to lure the market. But is it worth the few pesos and centavos they claim to be saved by consumers for every bag of cement they dump and sell locally?

The fact is they import at very low prices and sell at the same price as locally manufactured cement. But dumping of imported cement continues unabated. It is killing the country's cement industry. It has resulted in massive job losses. Unless checked, this unfair trade practice will result in the extinction of the Philippine cement industry. Millions of dollars worth of investments in cement plants and other related industries will be wasted.

Tomorrow, with no one to stop them there will be a total dependence on imported cement. These importers and traders will, in effect, create a monopoly that will control the supply of cement in the country. Ultimately, they will dictate the price of cement. And we will have no choice but to pay their dictated price.

We owe it to ourselves and all the workers and employees dependent on the Philippine cement industry to protect and keep it from being wrecked by undue competition from supposedly cheap cement dumped on the local market. It's time to look at the bigger picture. And the billions of pesos in real investments at stake.

Support the Philippine cement industry. It makes a lot of sense.

# Court excuses Erap from atending trial

(From page A1)

plained to the court that the elder Estrada "is not only indisposed but has an eye illness.

"He is also a bit saddened and depressed because of the death of Nida Blanca," he said.

In an interview outside court, another defense lawyer, Raymund Fortun, explained that Estrada was suffering from conjunctivitis, the inflammation of the conjuctiva, a part of the eye.

"It's been swelling since this morning and it's the same eye that needs to be immediately treated," he said, alluding to the ex-President's oft-repeated requests to undergo surgery out of detention—not for his eye but also for his arthritic knees.

The three-member third division granted the request for the elder Estrada to go back to the VMMC, with Ombudsman Aniano Desierto not objecting.

As for Jinggoy, defense lawyer Rene Saguisag asked that the younger Estrada be excused so that the security escorts would not have to return after taking his father back to the military hospital. The justices also allowed Jinggoy to go.

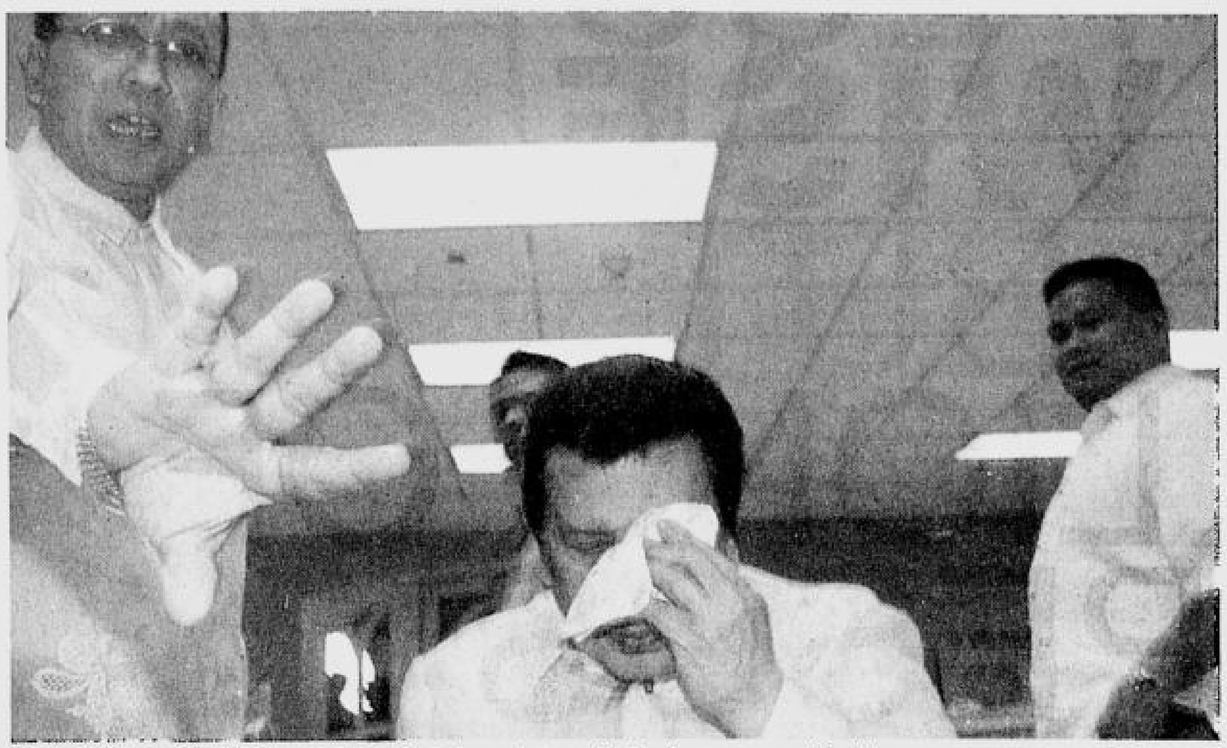
### Special treatment

At the courtroom, Plunder Watch convenor Dr. Carolina Pagaduan Araullo grumbled after the two Estradas had left: "I think this is just Justice Badoy's way of showing that he is not heartless.

"But this is another form of special treatment he is giving to the accused—all because Erap is Erap," she said.

With the hearing proceeding without them, the Estradas missed the direct examination of prosecution witness Carlos Arrelano, former chair, president and chief executive officer of the Social Security System (SSS).

For close to three hours on the stand, Arellano recalled how the deposed President "pressured" him into authorizing the purchase of P784 million worth of Belle Corp. shares using SSS funds in October 1999.



JV EJERCITO looks solicitously at his father who's suffering from an eye infection. REUTERS

The plunder charge includes allegations that Estrada pocketed P189.7 million in commissions from the Belle transactions.

Arellano, a childhood friend of Estrada and was appointed by the latter to the SSS post in June 1998, was cross-examined in by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

When the hearing adjourned at 5 p.m., Arellano had so far testified that he got three phone calls from Estrada in connection with the SSS-Belle transactions.

The first call from Estrada took place at around 10 p.m. of Oct. 6 when Arellano was at home in Riverside Subdivision in Quezon City.

"*Gusto ko tingnan ninyo ni* Ding Pascual *ang pagbili ng* Belle Resources shares (I want you and Ding Pascual to look into the purchase of Belle shares)," Arellano quoted Estrada as saying.

The then President was referring to Federico Pascual, then chair of the Government Service and Insurance System, Arellano said.

"*Opo, opo* (Yes, yes)," Arellano said of his response to Estrada.

Defense lawyers led by former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas objected when Zuño started describing Estrada's statement on the phone as an "order" or an "instruction" to Arellano to buy Belle shares.

### Problem with translation

"*Tingnan ninyo*," Cuevas said was more accurately translated in English as "look into."

But Badoy, who was standing during much of the trial, intervened by asking Arellano what he understood by the phrase "*tingnan mo.*"

"I thought it was an instruction, your honor," he said.

After that first call, Arellano said, he asked the SSS Investment Committee to review the viability of buying Belle shares at the time.

A week passed with Arellano not authorizing the purchase, when the second call from Estrada came, this time asking Arellano to see him in Malacañang.

In the meeting, Arellano said Estrada "asked me whether I had followed his instructions."

His reply then was: "*Tinitingnan pa po namin* (We're still looking into it)."

"*Bilisan n'yo na, bilisan nyo na* (Hurry, hurry)," Estrada told him next, Arellano said.

Zuño did not ask Arellano whether there was a witness to this exchange. Arellano recalled that when he arrived at the presidential Palace, he saw Estrada sitting at a round dining table with Jaime Dichaves. There were also many "waitresses" moving about, he said.

Dichaves was a board member of Belle and a close friend of Estrada. He was recently added to the respondents of the plunder case.

Asked why he did not immediately buy Belle shares after the first call, Arellano said, "I felt it was not proper timing; the volume was too much at that point."

Estrada called Arellano for the third time "a few days later" when the witness was at the 4th floor of SM Megamall between 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Arellano, then using a cell phone, heard Estrada again say: "*Bilisan nyo na! Bilisan nyo na!*"

This time, Estrada spoke "in a somewhat sterner manner," he said. "It was also about Belle Corp. He was following up the same item."

### Impatient

"It was more serious (in tone) than the previous orders," he added, saying he assumed that Estrada had already grown "impatient."

Again Arellano conferred with the investment committee the next day "to make sure that it's a valid investment," he said.

To his "personal opinion," however, "it was not the proper time for the SSS to invest . . . It (Belle) was not a major company but the amount involved is substantial."

The purchase finally pushed through on Oct. 21, 1999 of "a significant block" of Belle shares.

Bought were 249.679 million shares worth P784 million at P3.14 per share.

Asked by Badoy why he proceeded with the purchase of Belle shares despite his personal view that the timing was off, Arellano said: "I felt some amount of pressure."

"What were these acts of pressure?" Zuño asked Arellano. "His calls," Arellano said, referring to Estrada.

The hearing concluded with the defense panel disputing the admissibility of an SSS document: a summary of the "confirmation slips" purportedly including the SSS-Belle transactions.

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# *DOH chief pooh-poohs opinion of US doctor*

By Armand N. Nocum

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday downplayed the opinion of American doctor of ousted President Joseph Estrada that Estrada should have his arthritic knees treated abroad because the country had no technology for such a delicate operation.

Dayrit said osteoarthritis, the deterioration of the knee joints due to old age, "is a common ailment" among Filipinos.

"There are people (here) that can do that," he said of the operation on Estrada's arthritic knees. "Our orthopedic surgeons can attend to that."

Dr. Christopher S. Mow has insisted that Estrada be treated in the United States because the facilities needed to treat Estrada are not found here.

In a medical bulletin, Mow recommended that the surgery be performed in the US "because of the latest equipment and implants that are available" there.

"Certain specialized prostheses and equipment are likely to be required due to the severity of the condition. These materials are currently not available in the Philippines," Mow said.

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# 'They even asked for a referral'–kidnap victim

(From page A1)

Margaret, a young entrepreneur, prefers to keep silent, but finally decides to speak on condition her identity is not revealed. Several times, while narrating her experience, she silently sheds tears.

There are many reasons to keep quiet. Perpetrators on the loose can still get back at them. Their cases are being heard, and out-of-courtroom statements can jeopardize their fight for legal justice. Reliving the ordeal is emotionally wrenching. And, not least, their gratitude to their rescuers, members of a now defunct agency, might be misunderstood.

### Two sisters

Ivana, 21, and Ave had just left their home in a suburb outside Metro Manila and were on their way to school in downtown Manila when men stopped the car they were in. Ivana was behind the wheel. She pressed the horn to call attention to their plight, but one of the men was quick to open the door. Ivana tried to shout, but someone put a hand on her mouth.

"He said they were just going to borrow the car," Ivana recalls. She knew a taxicab had been following them. They were transferred to the cab, which then zoomed away toward Cavite. Someone scotch-taped their eyes and then placed dark eyeglasses over them.

"I could open my eyes a bit and see through the tape and the dark glasses, that's why I knew we were headed for Cavite," Ivana recounts in a faint, quivering voice. It takes some effort to coax details from her.

"We were led through a muddy trail amidst tall grass. Then we reached this small *kubo* (hut) which was very dirty. The men said it was not going to take long and (then) we would be home. And that they would not hurt us," she says.

The men stuck to their word. Throughout their ordeal the two sisters did not leave each other's side even for a second.

Several men with long firearms guarded the hut. The man who closely guarded them also acted as the "feel-good" guy who gave them constant assurance. "Money was all (we) needed," he always said.

The sisters were given a steady diet of grilled corn and instant noodles. "I tried to eat but I always threw up," Ivana says. "We would cry and cry ourselves to sleep."

She and her sister shared a *papag*, a bamboo-slatted platform. On the third night they were given blankets. There was no bathroom and toilet. They could not take a bath or change clothes. They urinated on the floor.

In the beginning, they were told their families could not be contacted. Some time later, they were moved to another hut that was even harder to reach. Ivana and Ave walked on muddy and rugged paths with their captors.

Only twice were they able to speak, briefly, to their father, using a cell phone, to prove they were alive. There was no conversation. When Ivana spoke in Chinese, one of the men got furious.

On the fifth day, they were told that if ransom was not paid soon, one of the sisters would be delivered to their father in a sack, dead. That was what the kidnappers also told their parents—P20 million, or else.

The family pleaded to bring it down to half a million. Both parties agreed on P2 million.

"We didn't have that amount and we had to find a way to raise it," says Mr. Wei.

On the sixth day, the sisters were told they would be free any time soon. But the pay off procedure proved to be taxing and confusing for the Weis.

With a driver who was an agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), Mr. and Mrs. Wei were to deliver the cash to someone at a certain place. But the kidnappers kept changing the place and the time. For almost the whole day, the Weis drove from north to south, from east to west, from this to that landmark. They obeyed all the instructions. Midnight came and still there was no sign of the ransom taker. The Weis were near exhaustion.

"*Galit na si Tata* (Tata is mad)," the phone message said. The kidnappers were suspicious and demanded that the Weis change the car they were using. This time, only one person plus a driver were to deliver the money. Mrs. Wei and a hired driver (not the PAOCTF agent this time) went, while Mr. Wei stayed behind.

"It was a nerve-wracking experience," Mrs. Wei recounts. As instructed, she waited in the dead of night in a mall parking lot, but nobody turned up or made a call. Then she realized there was no cell phone signal. She transferred and then called home. More instructions from the kidnappers. Go to this hotel, they said. She did and found no one there.

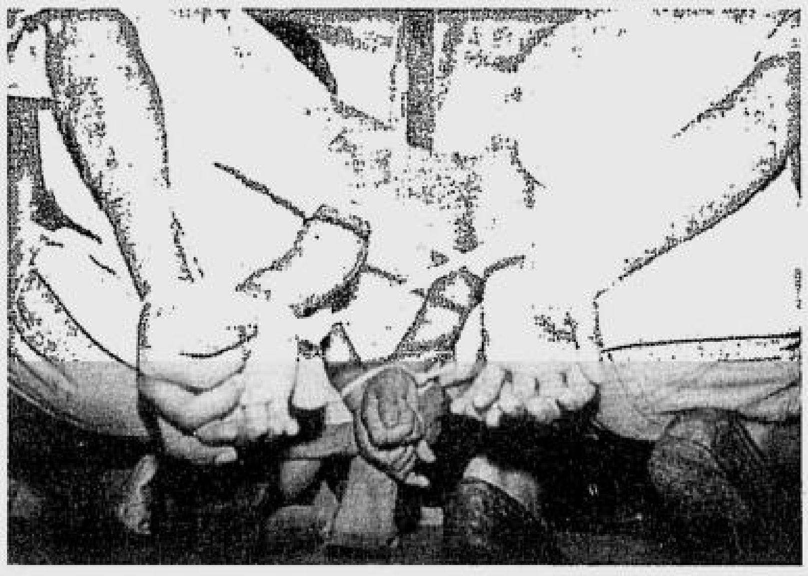
Another call came. The ransom was to be delivered on a bridge south of Manila. Mrs. Wei prayed this would be for real. She was to give the package to a 14-year-old boy who would emerge from somewhere. The boy did turn up, and she handed the money over. She headed for home and waited. It was almost dawn.

The kidnappers told Ivana and Ave to get ready. Together with their guards, they then rode a tricycle and then a jeep toward Muntinlupa. "We were to pretend that they were our boyfriends," Ivana narrates. "They gave us P200 and dropped us in Alabang."

There the sisters took a taxi and headed for a hotel where their parents were supposed to be waiting. The taxi driver couldn't help expressing his curiosity about who they were and where they came from. Ivana and Ave spoke little.

When they arrived at the hotel, however, their parents were not there. A member of the hotel staff kindly asked them who they were and later left them alone.

"We were very dirty and unkempt," says Ivana. Their parents, it turned out, had come earlier but did not find them.



HANDS THAT BIND. Victims often speak of suffering "at the hands" of their kidnappers. Here, three of five kidnapping suspects about to be presented to the press are shown from an unusual angle, from the back, with their hands bound. DENNIS SABANGAN

Ivana called home and waited anxiously. Their parents rushed to meet them, to finally take them home.

### Hole in the ceiling

Lily was expecting her 5-year-old daughter Lee and 29-year-old Nana, the *yaya* (nanny), to come back from school at the usual time, around 11:30 a.m. By noon, however, the two still weren't home. By 2 p.m., Lily was frantic. Lee and Nana had been seen leaving the school in a taxi, Lily was told, but nobody noticed anything unusual.

It was the same taxi they had hired a couple of times in the past.

Lily and her mother sought the help of a person who knew the taxi driver. They thought the driver might have been the last to see the two and could provide leads in solving their disappearance. The person, who lived close by, helped willingly. He would take Lily to Bulacan where the driver lived, he said.

On the way to Bulacan, Lily remembers now, their guide made a call to the driver to say they were coming. When Lily and company arrived, the driver was there to welcome them in his house. He offered some possible leads. He even boasted of knowing a police acquaintance who could help in the search.

Lily went home disappointed. She went home thinking she had heard the faint sound of a child's cry. From where it came from she did not know.

Lily waited for a call from someone, anyone, demanding ransom, but no one called.

She decided to contact the PAOCTF.

The next day, PAOCTF agents went to the driver's house. They asked if they could look around and the driver said Yes. One agent saw a hole in the ceiling, and the driver's face turned ashen. The agents clambered up to see. There in the dark, they found what they were searching for. Lee and Nana were there—both hog-tied, both dead from heat and suffocation.

It had not been quite two days; no ransom demand had been made or negotiations started. What had happened?

The driver and his accomplice(s), it turned out, had not quite made up their mind how much ransom to ask for and when to call. The driver panicked when he learned on that first night that Lily was coming to his house. He and his accomplice(s) hid the captives—who were still alive—up on the ceiling.

"*Misis, huwag kayong mabibigla* (Ma'am, brace yourself)," the PAOCTF agent said to Lily before he broke the news. He then said what she had dreaded to hear. Lily fainted.

"*Bo lo* (No more)," was all the weeping Lily could say to her estranged husband who was living in Taiwan.

When found, Lee and Nana were in a terrible state. Lee had bruises and scratches on her body, telltale signs of her struggle while gasping for air. Nana had been raped.

During the confrontation between the suspects and Lily's family, however, the driver and his accomplice denied raping the maid. They wouldn't do such a thing, they said, because "she was ugly."

### Thy neighbor's kidnapper

The day it happened, it was business as usual for the Tangs. Fay, then 21, a fourth-year college student, was minding the family hardware store with her mother and brother when they noticed a car in front, going back and forth. It was being driven by their neighbor, a young medical professional. He must be showing off his car, the Tangs thought.

Shortly after, a Toyota Corolla stopped in front, and three men with guns entered the store. A man with an Armalite stood outside.

"At first we thought it was a holdup," says Fay. "Then one dragged and carried me away. The others warned my brother not to inform the police. Then we were off. We headed in the direction of Baclaran. Then they put a blindfold on me. After 45 minutes we were in the safe house." Fay was told they were in Batangas.

"I cried and cried. They said, *Huwag daw ako mag-iskandalo at alam ko na ang kasunod* (I shouldn't make a big fuss because I knew what would come next). All they wanted was money, they said."

Someone was assigned to calm her down and befriend her. Once in contact with her family, the kidnappers allowed her to say something on the cell phone. But all she could say were two hellos, before they grabbed the phone from her. The negotiations were done over the phone and not at the safe house.

"The place was like a warehouse, no bathroom. I had no change of clothes," Fay recalls. When she complained on the second day, someone said, "*Patayin na lang kaya kita* (Why don't I just kill you?)."

On the third day, Fay was told, "It (her release) would be anytime." When she asked why nothing was happening, someone said it was because her brother had informed the *barangay*. Impatient, Fay said she was hungry. "I was always (being) given something bought from Jollibee." The food was warm, as if it had been bought nearby. But Fay, who was also given candy bought from a 7-11, always threw up what she ate.

Unknown to the kidnappers, the Tangs had informed the PNP Criminal Investigation Division, which had then referred them to the PAOCTF. The kidnappers' calls, which were being made every 15 minutes, were monitored, traced through caller ID. The rent-a-car they were using was also traced.

Finally, the P1-million ransom was delivered. In the late afternoon of the third day, Fay was readied for release. "But before that they asked me who I thought they could abduct next! *Humingi pa ng referral.* (They even asked for a referral)." Fay laughs at it now.

The kidnappers dropped Fay off at some place where she could take a cab home. As it turns out, Fay was not held in Batangas, as she was told, but in Cavite. "In Bacoor," says Fay. "Just before they released me I saw the receipt of the newly bought Jollibee hamburger. I wanted to take it as evidence but I was afraid they'd notice."

The case is now in court. A prime suspect turned state witness, who had vital information on the mastermind, was almost arrested by another police group during a hearing, purportedly for another "crime." If not for the prosecution lawyer's intervention, that vital witness could have been dragged out of the courtroom and never heard from again.

The alleged mastermind? The neighbor who drove his car up and down the street. Inquiries revealed he was implicated in at least two kidnap cases, one botched, the other carried out.

### 'Taong labas'

It was about 7 p.m. and Margaret Casio was on her way home in a chauffeur-driven car when a vehicle blocked her car on the highway. Three men alighted and then forced their way into the car; they sat beside her and told her not to shout. They said they were "*taong galing sa labas*"—literally people from the outside, meaning they were communist rebels—and they merely wanted to talk to her. The men carried long and short firearms.

Margaret didn't believe they were members of the New People's Army. "They said they were jobless, that they used to be contractuals who could not find jobs."

"I thought they were carnappers," Margaret says. But it was not the car they were after. It was a ransom of P20 million. Her family didn't have that amount, Margaret protested.

Margaret declines to say how long she and her driver were held captive and how many their abductors were. She volunteers this much: that one of those who guarded her played "good guy," that she was taken to "more than one place," and that she was not "maltreated." There were no phones. She found out where she was kept only after her release.

It seems to her now that her abductors were careful not to do anything that would make them open to more serious charges, in case they were caught.

But she knew that the "good guy" was just playing games. He flattered her by saying that her driver seemed more frightened than she was.

Margaret tried to size up her captors through their conversations. "I think they were not very educated," she says. "When they wrote down the phone numbers that I gave them, they had difficulty writing. *Hirap na hirap.*"

At least one of them turned out to be a former military man. The alleged mastermind turned out to be an active military officer. The vehicles used were traced to him, and he is now in detention.

Her relatives helped in the negotiations over the ransom amount, she says. She prefers to keep quiet about the details of her abduction, the negotiations and her rescue. But she well remembers the time she thought it was her time to die. Someone had kicked the door open and men with firearms came bursting in. To her relief, they turned out to be men from the PAOCTF.

After Margaret's rescue, the law enforcers presented the kidnappers to the media. Margaret and her family left for Hong Kong immediately after.

It has been more than a year since the trauma, but Margaret has not gotten over the experience. "Every time a vehicle cuts in front of us I get nervous." She pauses, holding back her emotions. She remains silent for some time.

Margaret says she has since kept an erratic schedule so no one can predict her coming and going.

"On the human side," she reflects, "you feel pity for the criminals, now that the law has caught up with them. But on the other hand, they could get back at you."

### Meek as lambs

The criminals all look as meek as lambs when they meet their victims face to face, after they are arrested. This is what all the victims say of their kidnappers. "They cannot look you in the eye," Lily says.

But in court, the suspects assume another personality, the victims' lawyers say. They become emboldened, fierce, especially with their defense lawyers by their side.

As if to say they could get away with it. As if to say, crime does pay.

Until the day, that is, when they enter the waiting chamber and are strapped to the gurney, for their rendezvous with the lethal needle.

# 'I'm pro-Erap? Ridiculous'

**By Christine Avendaño**

THE MAN accused by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto of being part of a "well-funded demolition job" against "all institutions" involved in the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada had filed plunder cases against Estrada.

"I'm pro-Erap? That's totally ridiculous," said lawyer Ernesto Francisco, who on Tuesday filed an impeachment complaint against Desierto.

"I filed two plunder cases against Estrada and I have been assailing the fumbling in his case," said the 39-year-old Ateneo law graduate.

Francisco filed on Dec. 4, 2000 a plunder case against Estrada, Ronaldo and Manuel Zamora and Luis Virata, who took over the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway Project.

On April 16, 2001, Francisco filed another plunder case against the same people and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde for the anomalous acquisition of Velarde's property in Parañaque for the C-5 link expressway.

Francisco said he was "pretty sure" that "a period of maligning" his person was forthcoming because he filed the impeachment complaint against Desierto.

Francisco has charged Desierto with bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust for allegedly receiving in 1997, P273,000 worth of video equipment, and P500,000 in cash in exchange for holding in abeyance an investigation of a bank owned his client, Luke Roxas.

Francisco has the compunction to do things when he believes these are "the right things to do." But he is ready to face the consequences.

He lost his job as associate attorney of the Accra law firm in 1998 when he filed the taxpayer's suit against the corporation running the Cavite Coastal Road for charging motorists exorbitant fees.

He got booted out from Accra when he was got a temporary restraining order on the imposition of the high toll fees.

Francisco later received a death threat apparently in connection with his filing of the plunder cases against Estrada, the Zamora brothers and Velarde. The lawyer has been placed under the government witnesses protection program.

Asked why he filed the taxpayer's suit against the people charging the high toll fees, he said he did so because the fees were "too much" for motorists. He said he was using the Cavite Coastal Road, being a resident of Cavite.

### No consultation

He said he did not consult Roxas when he filed the impeachment complaint against Desierto because he believed it was the right thing to do.

Francisco said he did not break the confidentiality rule between a lawyer and client when he revealed the alleged payoff to Desierto. "It's the truth," he said of the bribery.

"I sent him (Roxas) a letter (yesterday morning) and asked him to tell the truth and corroborate my story," Francisco said.

He disclosed that Roxas called him up Tuesday night after the media reported the impeachment case he filed with the House of Representatives.

Besides death threats, Francisco is facing a disbarment case filed against him in August.

Francisco said he had given his side to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in connection with the disbarment petition.

He does not know who filed the disbarment petition that stemmed from an interview he had with Newbreak magazine.

In the interview, he denounced corruption in the judiciary, particularly in the Office of the Ombudsman.

"(S)ad to say, corruption is so deeply rooted in our judicial system that even the agency mandated by the Constitution to serve as the watchdog against graft and corruption, the Office of the Ombudsman, is itself corrupt and has become the biggest stumbling block in the drive against graft and corruption," he told Newsbreak.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, who endorsed Francisco's impeachment complaint, believes the lawyer, who was student council leader in his college days at the University of Sto. Tomas and again in his Ateneo law studies, was sincere in his cause.

Francisco said he was still continuing his law practice despite the death threats.

**LAWYER** Ernesto Francisco: Expecting a "period of maligning." ERIK ARAZAS

**DESIERTO:** Didn't think the case would be this small.

# Ombudsman . . .

(From page A1)

Philippine Plaza.

"We are now studying the particular charges to be filed against him. He could be charged with corruption of public officials and libel. We can even initiate disbarment proceedings against him," Desierto said.

Francisco, a former associate lawyer of the Accra law office, has charged Desierto with bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust for allegedly receiving video equipment and close to P1 million in exchange for sitting on a case in 1997.

Francisco said he gave Desierto video equipment worth P273,000 and the "goodwill money" on behalf of his client Luke Roxas so that the Office of the Ombudsman would hold in abeyance its investigation of Roxas.

Roxas was the controlling stockholder of several companies including the ASB Realty Inc. and the Bank of Southeast Asia, now known as DBS-Philippines.

A task force led by then Presidential Security Group chief Jose Calimlim investigated in early 1997 the BSA after it was discovered that checks issued by Petron Corp. through the Philippine National Bank were being cashed there.

Desierto formed a panel on May 20, 1997 to look into the scam. It appears that nothing came out of the investigation.

Desierto said Francisco's allegations were fabricated and could not be supported by solid evidence.

He said even Francisco's client Roxas "in all probability" would not confirm the alleged bribery attempt.

Desierto said Roxas, and not Francisco, should have initiated the impeachment complaint.

### More serious

The Ombudsman said that as the lead prosecutor in the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada he expected far more serious threats like assassination than the impeachment complaint.

"When I decided to assume the role of the lead prosecutor in the trial of Joseph Estrada, I prepared myself for the worst," he said.

Desierto was ambushed in November 1993 in Quezon City, while he was investigating a land case involving former Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque.

He sustained three bullet wounds when his assailants fired on his car. Bullet fragments are still embedded in his upper right neck. He blamed Jarque for the ambush.

"The Ombudsman is the protector of the Filipino people at all cost. If this is my lot in life so be it," he said.

Without directly blaming the deposed President, Desierto said Estrada's supporters and political allies could be behind the demolition job against him and members of the prosecution team, including Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

On Tuesday night, Desierto said the impeachment complaint was part of a "well-funded demolition job" aimed at "all the institutions involved in Estrada's plunder trial" like the Office of the Ombudsman, the Department of Justice and the Sandiganbayan.

Desierto said the filing of an impeachment complaint against him was just "incidental." He said the "enemies of justice" and of the Filipino people "will never succeed."

### No wavering

Desierto vowed that the prosecution panel would not waver in its resolve to send Estrada and his cohorts to jail—and even to death row—for allegedly plundering the nation's coffers and receiving tax kickbacks, jueteng bribes and commissions from deals involving state pension funds.

"We will not withdraw from the cases. If they are trying to rock our determination, they are wrong. We will prove them wrong. We are going to pursue the cases aggressively," he stressed.

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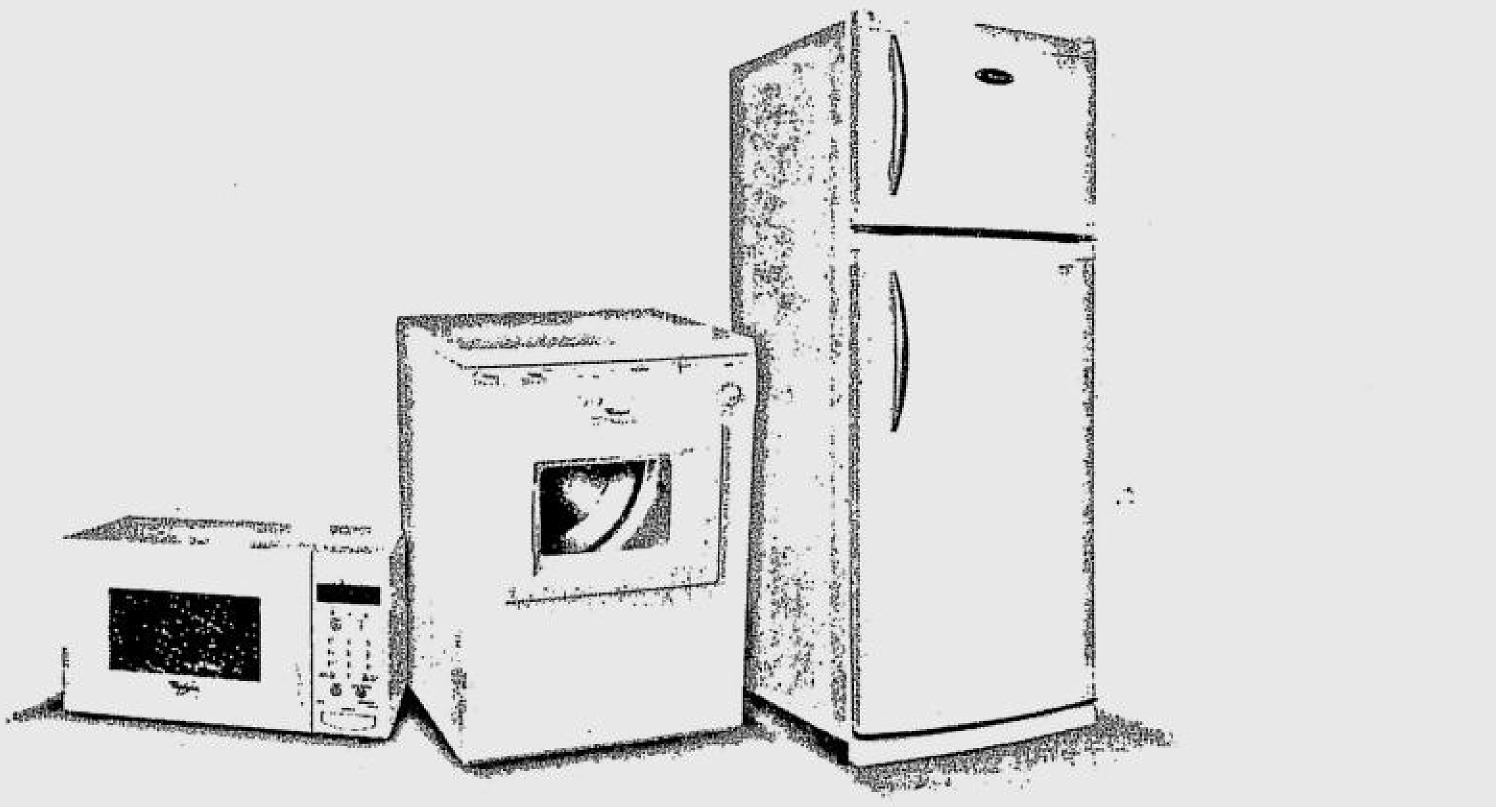

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# Tanduay wins, stays alive

By June Navarro

| Standings | W | L | | W | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sta. Lucia | 8 | 4 | Red Bull | 6 | 6 |
| Shell | 7 | 4 | Ginebra | 5 | 7 |
| Talk N Text | 7 | 5 | Alaska | 5 | 7 |
| San Miguel | 6 | 6 | Tanduay | 5 | 7 |
| Pop Cola | 6 | 6 | Purefoods | 4 | 7 |

Games Today
(Philsports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Shell vs Purefoods
7:10 p.m.—Tanduay vs Ginebra

FOR the second straight night since he sprang back from the injury list, Eric Menk shone anew as Tanduay ripped Talk N Text, 99-82, last night to stay alive in the hunt for a quarterfinal slot in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 6-foot-6 Menk unloaded 27 points to back Billy Thomas' 35 markers as the Rhummasters won their third straight victory and improved to 5-7, tying Barangay Ginebra and Alaska.

"Erik played a big part in our string of victories. Although he's not yet 100 percent, his mere presence alone commands respect," said Tanduay coach Derek Pumaren.

In the second game, Red Bull forced a three-way standoff at fourth spot after an 86-81 win over San Miguel Beer.

The Thunder are locked in a tie with Pop Cola and their victims at 6-6.

**Scores:**

**TANDUAY 99**—Thomas 35, Menk 27, Hawkins 12, Carlaso 11, Pumaren 10, Hontiveros 3, Locsin 1, Realubit 0, Cantonjos 0, Friedhof 0, Webb 0.

**TALK N TEXT 82**—Williams 28, Taulava 21, Camaso 11, Codinera 5, Pablo 4, Ejercito 4, Babilonia 4, Fran 3, Gonzales 2, Cui 0, Angeles 0.

Quarterscores: 24-20, 53-34, 77-56, 99-82.

# Butch cries harassment

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason yesterday branded the graft charges hurled against him as "pure harassment" even as his accusers are set to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo today in Malacañang to intensify their anti-Tuason campaign.

Just the same, Tuason said he welcomes the suit filed against him before the Ombudsman yesterday, saying it is a venue for him to "clear my name."

However, members of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines will bring their case straight to the President, who agreed to give them an audience in the Palace at 2 p.m., according to Acap president Jaime Sebastian.

"I hope the President will now see our point," said Sebastian, who is also the president of the Weightlifting Association of the Philippines. "She will see that all the athletes and coaches are just asking for the basic needs, which the PSC could not provide."

After going to the Ombudsman, Sebastian joined the Acap members to hear the noontime Mass in front of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex administration building.

Sebastian said they will respectfully ask the President to revamp the PSC from Tuason down to his commissioners Cynthia Carrion, William Ramirez, Weena Lim and Richi Garcia.

"It is the right of every man to air his opinion and seek redress for his grievances but I also have the right to defend myself," said Tuason in a statement. "I will answer all the charges point by point."

# Laguna grabs 2nd spot

Games Tomorrow:
(San Juan Gym)

3 p.m.—TPG Davao vs LBC Batangas
5:30 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Andok's San Juan

Second Phase Standings

| Northern | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| LBC Batangas | 10 | 1 |
| FedEx Laguna | 8 | 3 |
| Andok's San Juan | 7 | 3 |
| Nueva Ecija | 3 | 8 |
| Southern | | |
| Negros | 8 | 4 |
| Cebuana Lhuillier | 4 | 8 |
| TPG Davao | 3 | 8 |
| Socsargen-Taguig | 3 | 11 |

By Roy Luarca

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—FedEx Laguna rode on the explosive performance of Chris Clay in the third quarter to beat Negros, 122-105, last night and grab second place in the Northern Conference of the MBA Second Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

Virtually unstoppable, Clay poured 19 of his game-high 39 points in that span as the Lakers posted their fifth straight win for an 8-win, 3-loss record that put them behind the idle LBC Batangas Blades (10-1).

With Biboy Simon joining Clay at the firing end, the Lakers led by as many as 23 points and went on to hand the Slashers their fourth defeat in 12 starts.

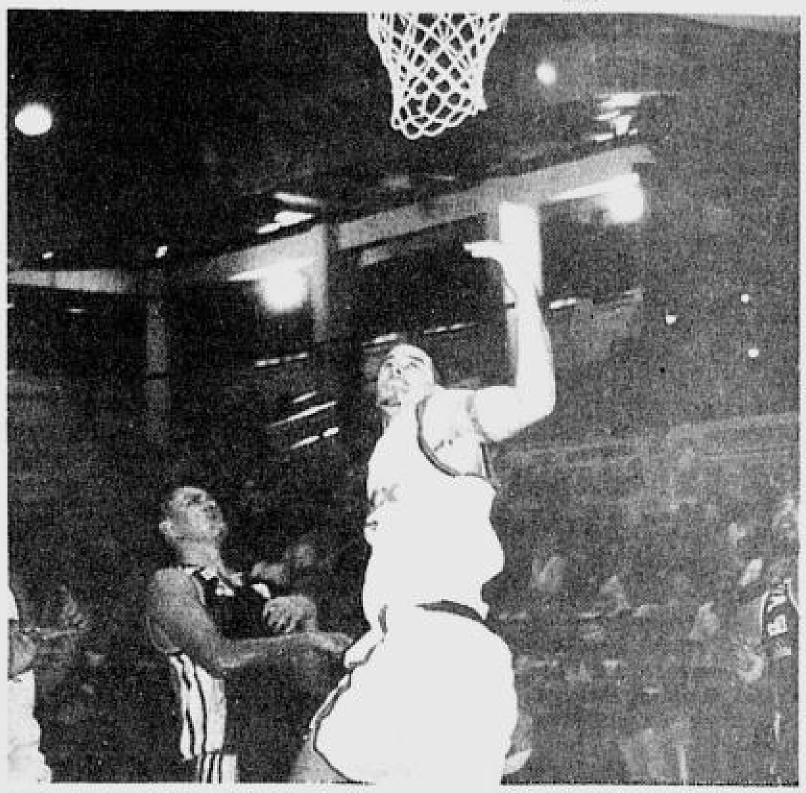
## PBL Today

(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Montana vs Welcoat
5:30 p.m.—Ana vs Shark

Earlier, Nueva Ecija checked its customary fourth quarter collapse to stun Cebuana Lhuiller, 115-107, and snap out of a long losing spell at the Cebu Coliseum.

The also-ran Patriots banked on rookie Paolo Malonzo and veterans Sonny Manucat and Billy Bansil to frustrate the Gems down the stretch and check an eighth-game skid.

Malonzo, a 22-year-old find from New Era University, poured 10 points in the last five minutes as Nueva Ecija improved to 3-8 in the Northern Conference.


**LAKER** Chris Clay (right) scoring against Davao's Ryan Bernardo in this file photo. The Lakers won, 142-107, behind Clay's 39 points.

# Palos Verdes SL Tour host

MINDANAO'S newest gem, the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf Club in Davao City, hosts the men and women on the Sta. Lucia Tour tomorrow with the staging of the third leg of the nationwide circuit.

The Andy Dye-designated Palos Verdes course will be making its debut as venue of the course-hopping series with various teams from five participating clubs out to fight for leg honors both in the individual and team competitions.

Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, chair and vice chair of the executive committee, respectively, said that Palos Verdes is "a welcome addition" to the Tour which will give the regular campaigners a chance to sample another of the growing family of Sta. Lucia courses.

"From last year's three, we now have four venues. Mindanao is now represented so we feel that the family has really become complete," Santos said.

A field of more than 150 players will be teeing off in two separate batches, the first at 6 a.m. and the second at 11:30.

Focus will be on the Orchard D team playing in Group I. The team powered by the Salvador brothers has so far won its first two outings in the series staged by Sta. Lucia Tour for clubs flying its corporate banner.

The co-sponsors are Golforce Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Omega, Yamaha/Kart Plaza, Philippine Airlines and Kodak Digital Camera.

# Alaxan to stage 'Village' golf

IT WILL be a wide open race for top honors among the best and the brightest village golf teams when the Alaxan Grand Intervillage golf championship is played Nov. 12 and Nov. 19 at the east and west courses of Wack Wack in Mandaluyong.

The grand finalists have stepped up preparations for the keenly awaited event with each team skipper expected to spring a surprise or two in fielding its respective rosters in the 12-to-play, 10-to-count format.

The event is sponsored by Alaxan and supported by BJ Marthel International, Mastercard, PinoyAuctions.com, ICTSI, STI Computer College, Callaway, Odyssey, McCallan Whisky, Pisanti golf wear, Haagen Dazs and 357 Boracay.

The Wack Wack courses will also provide a challenging venue as they are being spruced up in time for the event, thus ensuring a highly competitive 36-hole duel for honor and prestige among 12 village teams, which survived the grueling two-and-a-half month sectoral qualifying rounds which started with 40 villages last March.

Magallanes, Greenhills, Philam and Merville, the topnotchers in their respective sectoral eliminations, will slug it out in the Championship Division, first at the east course on Nov. 12 before clashing in the final day on Nov. 19 at the west course.

# Shotgun start for PAL Mabuhay

COMPANY presidents, chief executive officers, chairmen of the board and other leaders of business and industry gather once more tomorrow (Friday, Nov. 9) for an exclusive golf tournament billed as the 9th Mabuhay Club Invitational at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Players of all handicaps will be teeing off on the Faldo and Aoki layouts at 7:30 a.m. in a shotgun start of the annual tournament exclusive to members of the Mabuhay Club, the frequent business- and first-class flyers of Philippine Airlines.

Members from different parts of the country as well as those from Japan, Australia, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Honolulu have flown in for the tournament.

While low handicappers will be fighting it out for low gross honors in a wide open race, the rest of the field will be equally competitive in the System 36 format of play. Handicaps in the field of over 200 participants range from 2 to 36.

Bones Floro, grandson of the late sportsman Danny Floro of Crispa, will be playing with the lowest handicap of 2 in the absence for the second straight year of Gerard Cantada, the youngest and most dominant player of the tournament in its first seven stagings. Cantada has turned professional and will be playing only as a guest.

The other single-digit handicappers in the field are Primitivo Cal, Transportation and Communications undersecretary (3); Keisuke Kimoto, president of Kintetsu International Co. (8); Jose Cervantes Jr., president of Design Packaging Industries (7); Santiago Santos, president of Coastwise Lighterage (9); Juanito Chua, VP/COO of San Francisco Mirror Corp. (9); Gulshan Bedi, vice president of Fil-Estate Marketing (6); Edmund Yee of Ford Edsa (6);

Romulo Yee, vice president of Phil Skylanders (9); Leon Gonzalo Montemayor, president of Davao's Villa Margarita (7); Antonio Garcia, president of Hotel Galleria Davao (9); Emiliano Acuna, CEO of Sports Clinic (8); Lucho Singh (9); and Tadashi Goto, president of Shikotsdu Co. Ltd. of Japan (7).

## Legend Tee slated

**IT'S all systems go for the 1st Legend Tee Golf Tournament on Nov. 9-10 at the Subic Bay Golf and Country Club. Players from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan and Korea will join the event organized by Legend International Resorts and 7101 Islands Travellers Club in cooperation with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.**

# PCA netfest draws Koreans

FOUR Koreans and four Indians have confirmed their participation in the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Tennis Championships which started with the qualifying round yesterday at the PCA Indoor courts.

Koreans Song Hyeong-Keun and Chung Eui-Hyun are joining Johnny Arcilla, Adelo Abadia, Joseph Victorino, Michael Mora III, Pio Tolentino, Rolando Ruel Jr., Jesse Lapore, Nino Salvador and Pop Sabandon in the men's division.

Competing in the women's category are Koreans Kim Hye-Jin and Kim Yoo-Jeong; Indians Radhika Tulpule, Shruti Dhawan, Sonal Phadke and Radhika Mandke; and top locals Czarina Mae Arevalo and Charise Godoy.

Prizes at stake in the Philta-sanctioned Group 2 event supported by Coca-Cola, Eastern Telecom, Wilson, Little Lawrence, PVL Restaurant and official ball Dunlop are P100,000 for the men's singles champion and P40,000 for the women's singles winner.

PCA Juniors semifinalists Johan Guba, Ian de Guzman, Patrick John Tierro, Dino Ferrari, Ivy de Castro, Bien Zoleta, Catherine Flores and Kristel Samala were also given slots in the Open main draws set to begin on Nov. 10.

# Zoleta ousts Botor, 6-4, 6-1

MALAYSIA-bound Bambi Zoleta of Lucena ousted Julie Em Botor, 6-4, 6-1, and elder sister Bien Zoleta edged Catherine Flores of Ligao, Albay, 7-5, 6-2, to barge into the final of their respective divisions in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 over the weekend at the Philam Homes Tennis Club.

Bambi, who will compete in the Penang and Perlis International Juniors starting tomorrow, tangles with RP teammate Jessica Agra, a 6-0, 6-0 victor past Chynna Mamawal for the girls' 12-under class title; while Bien takes on Berry Sepulveda of Cebu, a 6-1, 6-2 winner over Ivy de Castro, in the girls' 16-under bracket.

Bambi poised herself for a double when she meets Gerard Ngo in the unisex 10-under age group. Bien again faces Flores, who routed Anna Culaba, 6-0, 6-1, for the girls' 14-under class jewel.

# Army A dominates Rexona football

CORPORALS Roel Gener and Nesturio Margarse led Army Team A to a 1-0 victory over Army Team B, 1-0, recently to capture the Rexona National I beach football championship at the Waterfront in Subic Bay Freeport.

Gener wound up the tournament's Most Valuable Player in the tourney organized and supervised by the Beach Football Association of the Philippines (BFAP), headed by Mike Athab.

Army Team A thus earned a trip to Boracay for the Rexona International Invitational Beach Football tournament, the final leg in the Rexona National beach football Series 2001 under the Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series.

The Army teams dominated the national championships with Army Team A, coached by Capt. Arnel Fernandez, topping the single-round elimination with four wins and a draw for a total of 13 points. Army team B tallied four wins and a single loss for 12 points.

The event was sponsored by San Miguel Super Dry, Viva Mineral Water, FHM, Digital, Computer Minds Phils., La Luna Court Pearl of the Pacific Victory Divers and Subic Bay Freeport.

Unilever's Rexona Brand Manager Ken Lingan did the ceremonial kick to open the one day tournament while present at the awarding rites were the Iraqi ambassador to the Philippines Salah N. Al-Samarmad, SBMA chairman Tong Payumo, BFAP's Mike Athab, and Ground Zero's Albert Almendralejo who undertakes the Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series.

"We are looking forward to the Boracay international invitational where we expect both Boracay-based teams and Manila-based foreign communities' teams to participate. The Philippine Army team will represent the Philippines," said Almendralejo.

## SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

**BASKETBALL:** Harlem Globetrotters vs Iowa Hawkeyes at 1 p.m. (r - midnight) on ESPN

NBA at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

**GOLF:** PGA - The Tour Championship, Final Round at 1 p.m. (r), Highlights at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

**TENNIS:** WTA Championships, Round of 16 at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

# For Tito

SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

IT'S been years since I last played golf with Tito Eduque. Back then, it was both fun and thrill for Tito, Leo Prieto, Ernie Gonzales and me each time we had our foursome. At every opportunity, Ernie and I pitted our skills against Tito and Leo over 18 holes, with friendly bets on the side. When Ernie and I kept losing, Rudy Salud came to our rescue.

"From now own, I'll take care of your bets," said Rudy. "I can see that you keep on losing and it pains me to see the both of you digging deep into your pockets."

After that, Ernie and I started winning—to the chagrin of Tito and Leo.

And then it ended. Leo fell ill. He has recovered now, though, thanks to God. Next, Tito got sick; early this year, he was discharged from the hospital.

In August this year, I saw him at Aguinaldo during the Triple V Golf Classic, Tito's babe for 15 years.

"I'm starting to come back," he said, flashing that ever-present and infectious smile. "For now, I'm hitting range balls."

Then yesterday, Butch Marco, Tito's son-in-law called me up.

"Tito is back at the Makati Med," he said. "Cardiac arrest. The family needs your prayers."

Dear God, have mercy.

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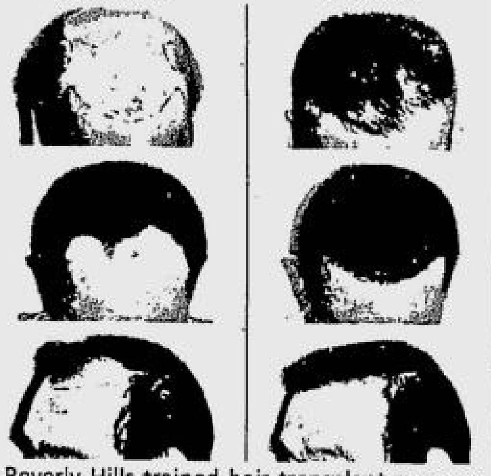

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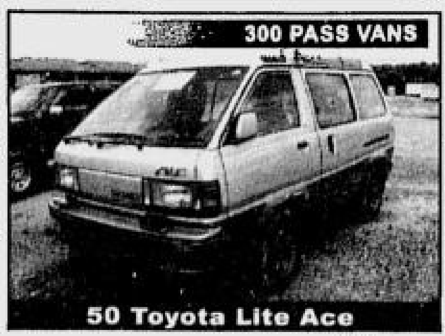

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## Motor Show on Auto Review

AUTO Review airs the first of its three-part series on the 35th Tokyo Motor Show this Saturday (Nov. 10) from 6:30-7 p.m. on NBN 4. Considered as one of the top three motor shows in the world, the Tokyo exhibit features the latest in passenger cars, electric vehicles, motorcycles and concept cars. Hosted by sportscaster and motoring journalist Ron de los Reyes, the show this week features the displays of Toyota, Daihatsu, Nissan, Subaru and Ferrari.

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

### SILVER STORY SUSPENSION

# 'Philracom decision one-sided'

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

PAMAN

**VERY stiff and one-sided.**

**That's how noted race horse trainer Ricardo Paman Jr. branded the three-month suspension slapped him and champion horse Silver Story by the Philippine Racing Commission.**

"The Philracom never gave any credence to my answers during the investigation. The decision was very stiff and one-sided," said Paman of the penalty which the racing body imposed the other day.

Paman added he was puzzled why the Philracom gave importance to the testimony of star jockey J. B. Hernandez when he, as the trainer, is the one "who knows the real condition of Silver Story."

Paman also reiterated that Silver Story loss in the Three-Year-Old Colts race of the Mitra Cup 2 festival was caused by the removal of the horse's racing plate in the foreleg and "not the we allowed him to run despite not being in shape."

"Silver Story was in top form when we raced him in the Mitra Cup. *Di ko itataya ang reputasyon ko at ng mga kabayo ko lalo na sa ganyang ka-prestihiyosong karera*," Paman added.

Meanwhile, Hernandez echoed Paman's sentiments, saying that Silver Story was indeed in excellent shape when he ran in the Three-Year-Old Colts race. Hernandez also said the Philracom might have misinterpreted the statements he made during the inquiry.

"We were really saddened by Silver Story's suspension. I'm sure the racing fans who followed his career would also feel the same," added Paman.

Silver Story, a son of Conquistarose out of Northern Edge, was last year's undisputed two-year-old champion and Horse of the Year awardee. His biggest accomplishment this year was sweeping the Triple Crown series.

The three-month ban means he would be able to compete in the Marho-Breeders' Cup on Nov. 18, Presidential Gold Cup on Dec. 16 and Philracom Classic on Dec. 29.

## RACING TIPS

### AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Love and Kisses 2. T-Square

Race 2—1. Arabica 2. Union City Boy 3. Imus Emperor 4. Shuttle's Magic

Race 3—1. Aim for Gold 2. Thunder Dragon 3. Secreto

Race 4—1. Grupo Grupo 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Ticket to Fame

Race 5—1. Moving Target 2. Prince of Africa 3. Charmingly Chit 4. Cobra Door

Race 6—1. Magnicolo 2. Touch of Luck 3. Come in Glory

Race 7—1. Royal Angel 2. Rio Rossa 3. Taskmania 4. Silver Print 5. Kathy Rose

Race 8—1. High and Mighty 2. Full Show

Race 9—1. Wine and Roses 2. Hurry Prince 3. Aya's Dream 4. Ultimate Prize 5. Gold and Dollar 6. Man of the Hour

# Chess finals tomorrow

AT LEAST 40 chess players, culled from 3,000 participants around the country, will take part in the 2001 Shell National Youth Active chess championship grand finals starting tomorrow at the SM Megamall.

The 11-round Swiss system tournament will be broken down into two categories, the under 20 and below 14 age brackets and will run until Nov. 11.

"Some entries in this year's finals have fought against the world's best in the recent World Youth Chess Championship in Oropesa del Mar, Spain," said tournament organizer Teddy Bolivar.

Shell Philippines country chair Oscar Reyes and Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason will preside over the tournament's opening rites.

The event, which will award P67,500 plus medals to the winners, is also backed by PLDT, Negros Navigation, College Assurance Plan, Solid Shipping Lines, SM Megamall and Shell Citibank MasterCard.

Now on its 10th year, the tournament has produced three international masters, dozens of Fide and international women's masters and a growing pool of young chess talents who represented the country in international competitions.

# Dytoc advances

PATTAYA, Thailand—Benny Dytoc of the Philippines survived the cut after averaging 209.6 pins in his first 24 games, while teammate Liza del Rosario came in fifth after 16 games Tuesday in the 37th AMF Bowling World Cup International finals at P.S. Bowling Pattaya here.

Dytoc, who made an auspicious start by taking the lead after eight games, carded 5030 pins to rank 14th and join 23 other bowlers in the next round.

Del Rosario tallied 3332 for a 208.3 average and appeared certain of making the next round as the women bowled their last eight games in the elimination round yesterday.

Like in the men's division, only the top 24 women will remain after 24 games.

# Luzon derby tonight

THE LUZON Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Inaugural 6-Stag Derby championship round gets going at the Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 tonight.

Entries from Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Rizal are expected to dominate. More than 58 fights are lined up.

Eight cockers from a field of 46 posted two victories each in last Tuesday's elimination round.

They are Ucap back-to-back Stagfighter of the Year Sonny Lagon of Laguna (Blue Blade), Buddy Robregado (Luzviminda I P1.2 M Dec. 10) and Maj. Bobby Doromal (77 Luzviminda II) of Cavite, Biboy Enriquez (March 19-21 Ucap), Rep. Lawrence Wacnang (Crowsland) and Ricky Castillo (E-68) of Rizal, engineer Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum) and Bitchof Echauz (Ente Farm Gold Rush) of Batangas.

With 1.5 points are Peping Cojuangco of Tarlac (AT Stingers), Benjie Lim of Manila (BLIM), Boy Diaz and Sandy Javier of Batangas (Royal Maverick Purple Haze I) and lawyer Joey Mendoza of Rizal (Tagapo Farm).

Winners of the inaugural derby will advance to the LGBA semifinals 6-Stag Derby on Nov. 13 and 15. The championship round is set on Nov. 20 and 22, where the LGBA Stagfighter of the Year shall be chosen.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Paeng Nepomuceno tallied a 40-game total of 9167 pins to set a new World Cup record at the Bowling Du Mans in France.

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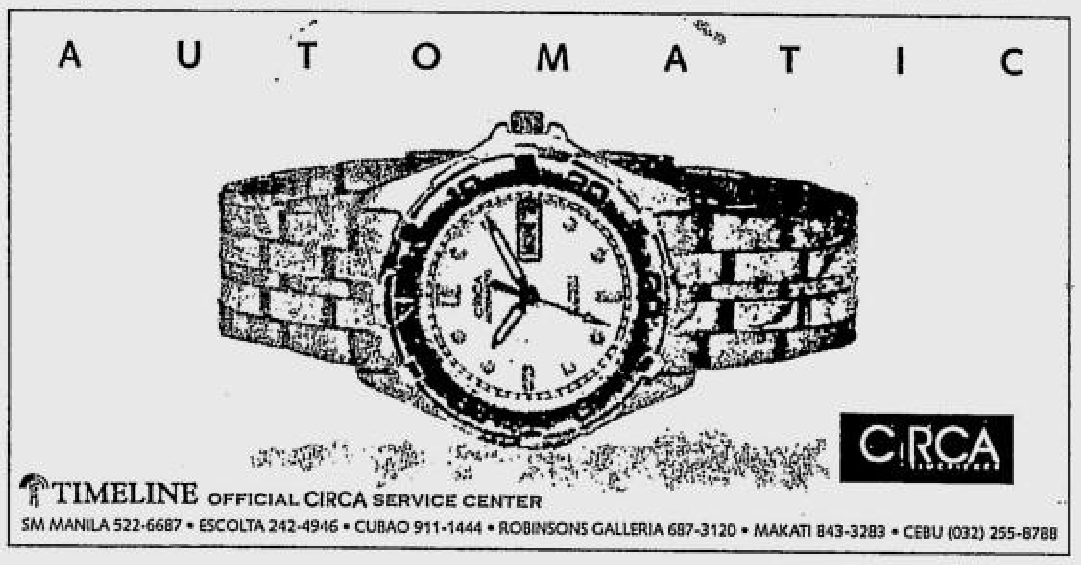

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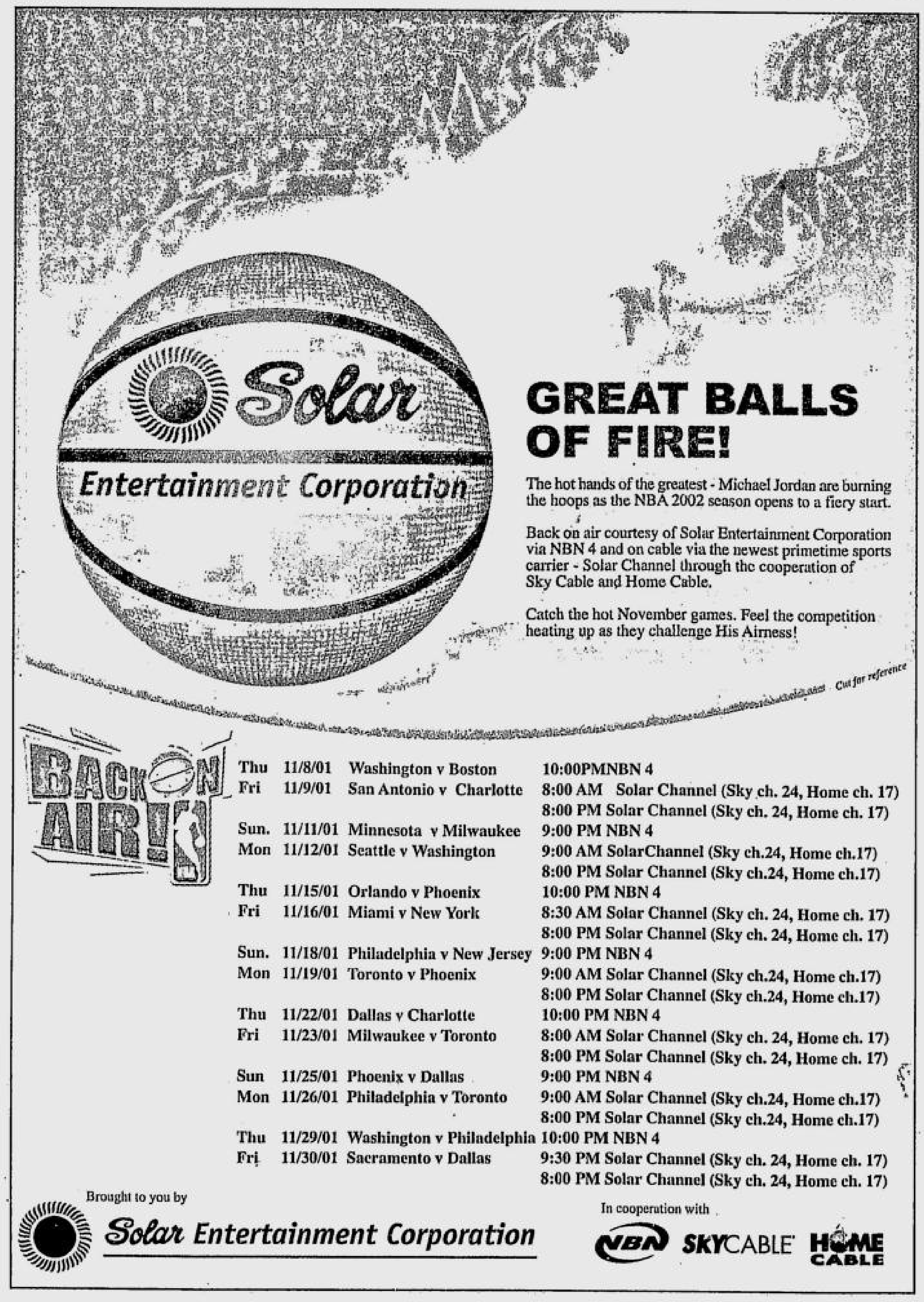

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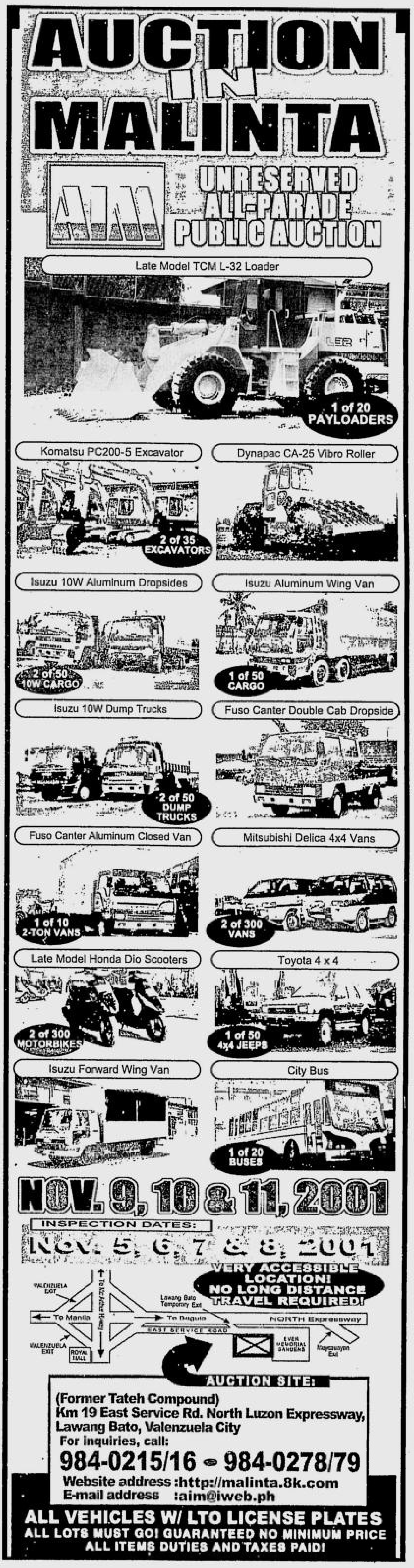

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Addict thought it was a bad dream A20

# METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

DENR-City Hall word war escalates A20

# Shabu now produced in RP

## Big Chinese drug laboratory discovered in Pasig City raid

ERNIE SARMIENTO

**THE FEARED** full-scale local manufacture of shabu is confirmed after the raid on a Pasig lab from where cops recover this drum of ingredients. (Another photo on Page 20)

BY LUIGE DEL PUERTO AND AGNES DONATO

**DRUG syndicates from Mainland China no longer smuggle shabu into the Philippines, they now manufacture the drug here in the country.**

Police authorities made this discovery after operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office's Regional Intelligence Special Operation Office (NCRPO-RISSO) and the Metro Manila Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) raided on Tuesday a house in Pasig City which yielded a full-scale shabu laboratory.

"This seems to be the pattern now. Because it is much more difficult for the drug syndicates based in China to bring in finished shabu into the country, they now manufacture it here,

SHABU/ A20

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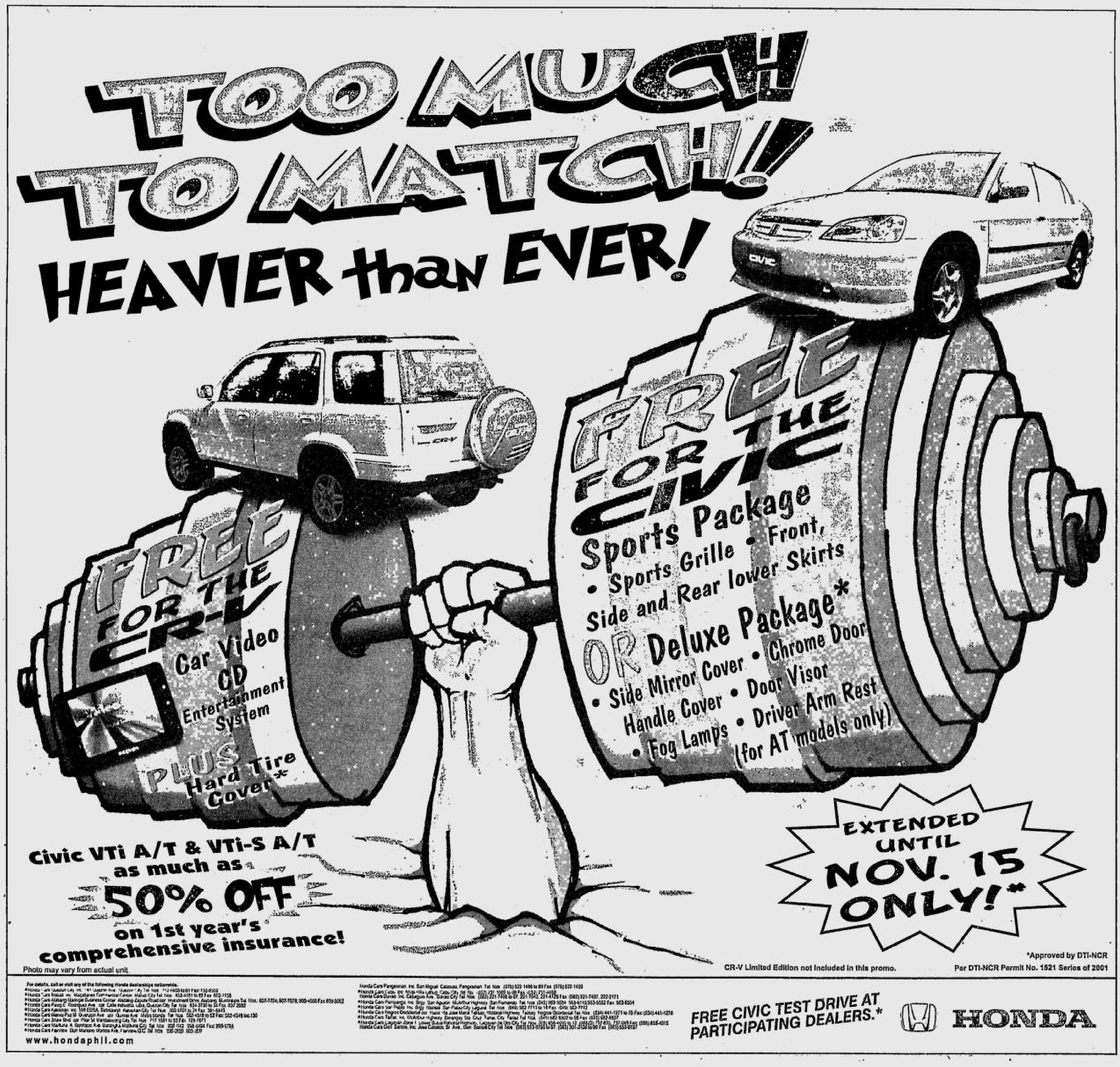

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HONDA

# DENR-City Hall word war escalates

By Jerome Aning,
TJ Burgonio
and Alcuin Papa

ALVAREZ

CITY HALL

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez Jr. yesterday lashed out at his critics in the Manila City Council and condemned their "parochial" antics to declare him "persona non grata" for allegedly opposing their plans to transfer the Pandacan oil depot out of the city for security reasons.

"Declaring me persona non grata is a parochial statement which is uncalled for," Alvarez said. "It is a diplomatic sanction issued only by a country against an unwanted foreigner. Manila belongs to all Filipinos, whether Bicolano or Ilocano."

Alvarez added that the councilors' move to declare him an "undesirable" person, like their resolution seeking to transfer the Pandacan depot in six months, only showed their propensity to adopt "theatrical solutions" to problems besetting the city.

"No wonder local government officials are having a hard time addressing even the garbage problem because of the way they are coming up with theatrical solutions to environmental problems," he said in a statement.

But Manila councilors countered that the head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources does not care for the residents of Pandacan whose lives are threatened by the presence of the oil facility, which is prone to terrorist attack.

Fifth district Councilor Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion, the first to speak against Alvarez in the previous session, accused Alvarez of caring "more for the trees in Mehan (Garden) than the Pandacan folk whose lives and property are in constant danger due to the presence of oil depot."

Dawis-Asuncion is referring to the earlier dispute over Mehan Garden when the DENR chief tried to prevent the city council from pushing through with the construction of a parking facility at the historic park.

Asuncion said the DENR chief did not make a statement when the depot phaseout was first proposed two months ago. The Council wanted the oil terminal closed after it learned that the facility lacked adequate protection from a terrorist attack or even a fire.

"(Alvarez) meddled in the Mehan projects which are part of the city's development and urban renewal program," Dawis said. "But in an environmental issue such as the depot phaseout, he did not say anything."

On Tuesday, Councilor Joseph Lopez presented a motion to enact a resolution declaring Alvarez a "persona non grata" for allegedly siding with the oil companies in the phaseout of the oil depot.

None objected to the motion during the council's session.

Alvarez, who was in Benguet yesterday to award P43 million for the implementation of community projects under the Itogon Integrated Watershed Management Project, said the six-month deadline imposed by the Manila council for the transfer of the depot was not viable. He said it would take the oil firms at least three years to properly move their depots out of the city.

Alvarez also clarified that he was only against the hasty transfer of the depots in Pandacan.

"There is no question that not only the oil depot, but all industries along the Pasig River will have to be transferred in the future, but this must not be done as a knee-jerk reaction to threats of terrorism," he said.

Alvarez stood pat on his position that the oil facility should be moved out gradually within a three-year period.

"We must (transfer the facility) with deliberate planning to protect national interest. And if this becomes environmentally intolerable, dangerous and totally disruptive, the DENR will have to come in," he said. "When you are running a big city, you might prove to be even more destructive if you become hysterical and intemperate."

To mark the 26th anniversary of the Metro Manila Development Authority yesterday, all the mayors of the metropolis signed a resolution pushing for the relocation of the Pandacan oil facility.

The Metro Mayor Council (MCC) formally passed the resolution during a meeting at the MMDA's office in Makati City.

In their resolution, the council said that after the Sept. 11 attack in the United States, "no facility is safe from terrorist groups" who are determined to inflict maximum damage.

"Due to aforesaid reasons, the Metro Manila Council deems it necessary and urgent for the three oil firms namely, Petron Corp., Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines, to immediately look for a new site," the resolution stated.

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# Ma, kids killed

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—A woman and her two children were stabbed and killed allegedly by the woman's live-in partner in their house in Barangay Ilang-ilang here on Tuesday night.

Police identified the victims as Emily Batigdas, 35, and her children Christopher, 13, and Arlyn, 11.

Senior Insp. Rogelio Mojica, Guiguinto police chief, said the suspect, Jose Caloloy, 42, Batigdas' live-in partner, fled after stabbing the victims.

Caloloy and Batigdas reportedly had a quarrel after Caloloy felt jealous with her estranged husband who wanted to win her back.

After their quarrel, Caloloy took out a fan knife and stabbed Batigdas and her children, police said.

Police said Caloloy did not harm Boyo, his 2-year-old son by Emily. A neighbor took custody of the child.
*Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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# Addict thought it was a bad dream

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

DRUGS drove a 16-year-old boy to stab to death his 16-year-old cousin whom he allegedly raped when they were both 10 years old, police said.

Saying that he didn't mean to kill her and that he thought everything was just a bad dream, the boy yesterday admitted to police that he was on drugs when he attacked his cousin on Sunday in Malabon.

The boy, who went into hiding for two days after the murder, was arrested after his parents tracked him down and asked police to take him into custody.

A six-year-old boy who witnessed the killing told police the suspect arrived at the girl's house in Malabon about 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, smelling of liquor and insisting that his cousin let him in.

Police said the girl refused to open the door to the suspect who got mad. But the boy managed to enter the house and stab dead the girl, police said.

The suspect fled after the killing and hid for two days until his parents turned him over to police yesterday.

The girl's mother told police that the boy had raped her daughter when they were both 10 years old.

Police said this could be the reason why the girl refused to let her cousin into her home.

The boy is now facing murder charges before the Malabon Trial Court.

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# Shabu now . . .

(From page A19)

bringing their men into the country," Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said in a press conference.

"I have tasked Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) Commissioner Andrea Domingo to investigate why some of these arrested Chinese were given permanent resident status in the country," Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said.

More than P10 million worth of shabu and raw materials for its production were recovered when police raided the Pasig City laboratory.

The police operation resulted in the arrest of eight Chinese nationals and three Filipinas, who have been detained at the headquarters of Regional Intelligence Special Operation Office of the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) in Bicutan, Taguig.

Deputy Director General Edgardo Galvante, Metro Manila police chief, identified the arrested Chinese suspects as chemist Xing Wang, alias Hawk Chua Villanueva, 31, of Barangay Capitolyo, Pasig; Chua Chi, 37, of Binondo, Manila; Huang Hongwei, 34, of Binondo, Manila; Joey Lu, 25, of Sta. Cruz, Manila; Ronal Yao, 25, of Visayas Avenue, Quezon City; Chua Lin Yen, 20, of Visayas Avenue, Quezon City; Wen Jin Cai, 23, of Barangay Capitolyo, Pasig; Timas Lu, 34, of Barangay Capitolyo, Pasig.

Also nabbed were Luven San Juan, 19, and Geneveve Ordono, 20, both of Barangay Capitolyo, Pasig; and Analyn Plaza, 23, of Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

The group was led by a Chinese chemist named Cai Hongtian, a.k.a. Huai Ia, of No. 18 Elcano Street, Binondo, Manila. He is still being sought by authorities.

The raid was conducted by virtue of a search warrant issued by Judge Marietta Legaspi of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 165.

The successful operation was a result of a month-long surveillance, said Chief Supt. Romulo Sales, NCRPO deputy regional director for operation.

The shabu laboratory was discovered at the back of Xing Wang's residence on 44 San Agustin St., Capitol 8 Subdivision, Pasig City.

Confiscated were six plastic bags of suspected finished product weighing about five kilos and amounting to P10 million; one pail containing about five kilos of shabu for crystallization, and eight containers containing about 210 liters of liquid substance for the production of the drug.

Police said that, although the said volume seemed minimal, the laboratory obviously produced larger volumes unceasingly.

"As long as they have the materials. It's quite easy to produce shabu. And they can produce shabu indefinitely," PNP Crime Laboratory head Chief Supt. Marlowe Pedregoza told the INQUIRER.

Police also recovered several raw materials for the production of the narcotic such as iodized salt, hydrochloric acid and soda flakes, as well as utensils for crystallization of shabu.

The suspects also yielded two Ingram machine pistols with one silencer, one Uzi and assorted ammunition, one Claymor mine bomb with blasting caps and detonating cords, and six cellular phones.

Prior to the raid, a separate team of intelligence operatives conducted a buy-bust operation against suspects Ronal Yao, Chua Lin Yen and Wen Jin Cai in the vicinity of Nipa Hut Restaurant on Hillcrest Road, Pasig.

But before the pay-off was completed, the suspects reportedly sensed the presence of the police, prompting them to speed off on board a white Toyota Grandia van (Plate No. WPV 611).

A brief car chase ensued and led to the arrest of the three suspects on Magallanes Avenue, Makati City. Recovered from them were 500 grams of shabu and P4,000 in marked bills.

Sales, who was present during the raid, said the police had some difficulty in searching the house for illegal drugs because a claymor mine was found in the area.

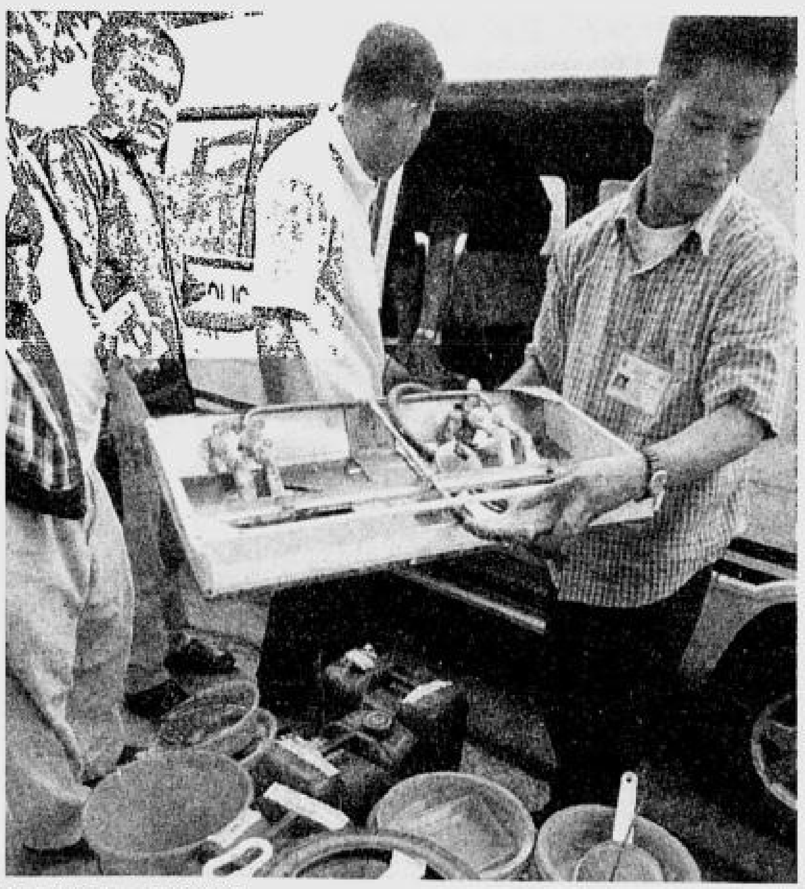
"We had to ask first for the assistance of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal of the Makati City police (before we could conduct the raid). We really did not expect to find a bomb because we thought that this was a purely drugs operation," Sales said.

Charges of violation of the Anti-Dangerous Drugs Act (RA 6425) and illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives will be filed against the suspects.

In the Lipa City shabu laboratory raid last April 28, the police also noticed all of those inside the laboratory were Chinese. The lone exception was a Chinese-Filipino who had lived in the country for years.

Sales said they had been tipped by concerned residents about unfamiliar Chinese citizens in the area. The residents had also complained about a distinct smell coming from the house of Wang.

"This is also the result of the cooperation of Pasig City residents. They were the ones who tipped us about these Chinese," Sales told reporters.


SHABU STOVE ERNIE SARMIENTO
What looks like a twin-burner gas stove, among paraphernalia taken in a raid in Pasig shabu lab, is being loaded into a police van.

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## Choir concert

ANGELS in Harmony, a concert by the critically acclaimed Mandaluyong Children's Chorus, will be presented on Saturday, starting at 7 p.m., at the Kaban ng Hiyas Cultural Hall, Mandaluyong City Hall Complex.

The presentation, under the auspices of the Mandaluyong Cultural Affairs and Tourism Office, will feature Sebastian Trinidad as choirmaster and Ruth Quinones as assisting artist. For ticket reservation call 532-5001-28 loc. 335

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# NPA band sightings send Antipolo cops in frenzy

By Nelson Flores

THE REPORTED sightings of a big band of New People's Army guerillas have caused frayed nerves in Antipolo City.

This surfaced yesterday as some members of the Antipolo City Police Force, on 24-hour duty since last week, said they have been suffering from anxiety and stress due to the heightened alert.

They added that the cancellation of all leaves of absences caused anxiety among their family members.

"But we are prepared," said Supt. Reynaldo Macalalad, Antipolo City police chief, as he dispelled rumors that some of his men could be on the verge of a breakdown.

Macalalad noted that the cancellation of the leave was of no concern since most of the city policemen are local residents and in contact with their families most of the time.

The ruckus was caused by the recent sightings of the ranking members of the Narciso Antaso Aramil Command of the NPA who reportedly met in the hinterlands of Antipolo City.

Intelligence sources said the NPA guerrillas met last Saturday in Barangay San Isidro where it was allegedly decided by the rebels to avenge the death of four farmers who were killed by members of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force.

Rizal Provincial Police Office intelligence operatives, who declined to be named, said the meeting was presided over by Tirso Alcantara, the NPA chief for southern Luzon; and Ruben Batralo, the NPA provincial commander.

The meeting reportedly tackled mainly operational and security matters.

Alcantara and his party reportedly arrived late Friday night on board a maroon pickup truck and were met by 20 local NPA combatants. They then proceeded to Barangay San Isidro, a remote area in Antipolo that is bounded by Rizal and Quezon provinces.

After the meeting, Alcantara boarded an FX van and reportedly proceeded to Cubao, Quezon City, where he stayed overnight, before going to Bulacan to inspect NPA units there, the source said.

The same combatants, most of them in their early 20s, who met Alcantara were last seen on Monday in Sitio Kulasisi, Barangay Inarawan while transporting two bundles of firearms. Five of the guerrillas were women, the source said.

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# Erap should be allowed to leave the country

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulfo*

IT'S a good thing the Supreme Court has ordered the two feuding justices of the Sandiganbayan, Francis Garchitorena and Anacleto Badoy, to stop washing their dirty linen in public.

The squabble has engendered suspicion that one of the justices was paid by the camp of ex-President Estrada to derail his plunder trial.

*Hindi na kayo nahiya, ang tatanda na n'yo pero para pa rin kayong mga bata* !

***

Erap Estrada's machinery is apparently working at full power because the reputation of everybody who is handling the Erap plunder case is being besmirched.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who heads the prosecution panel in the plunder case, is being put under a cloud.

Ernesto Francisco, a former associate lawyer at the Accra Law Office, where opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara is a senior partner, has filed a graft case against Desierto.

***

Francisco said Desierto accepted video equipment and P500,000 bribe money from his client, Luke Roxas, who was allegedly being investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Francisco's allegation is already shot full of holes on the allegation that Roxas was being investigated by Desierto. The Office of the Ombudsman does not have any jurisdiction over non-government personnel; Roxas is a private citizen.

Desierto himself said that Roxas had never been investigated by his office.

So, why would Roxas bribe Desierto when he was not—and could not be—investigated by the Ombudsman?

***

If I were President Macapagal-Arroyo, I would discreetly ask the Sandiganbayan to allow Erap to go to the United States to be treated for his arthritic knees.

We all know Erap just wants to have a vacation from jail because boredom, not his knees, is killing him.

But if he's not permitted to seek treatment abroad—even if it's not a life and death situation—people might think that he's being persecuted and oppressed.

***

Dictator Ferdinand Marcos allowed former Sen. Benigno Aquino to have his heart bypass done in the United States although he knew Aquino would seek political asylum there. Marcos wanted to impress upon the citizenry that he was not oppressing Ninoy Aquino.

The GMA administration will be 10 feet tall in the eyes of the citizenry if Erap is allowed to go to the United States. GMA should remember Erap still has countless sympathizers among the poor who compose the majority of the citizenry. I was in Davao during the long vacation and I learned most Mindanaoans sympathize with Erap.

The President would be averting Edsa 4 if she allowed Erap to have his arthritic knees treated in the United States.

***

Personally, I see no reason for Erap to have surgery on his knees done in the United States because we have good bone doctors in Manila. The Makati Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital have the equipment for such a minor operation.

I can mention two world-class Filipino bone surgeons—Evaristo Sanchez and Rimando Saguing—who can treat Erap.

*Gusto lang talagang magbakasyon ng kumag.*

***

Businessman Miguel Coyiuto, who owns PGA Cars store on Edsa, is in deep trouble for selling "hot" cars to another businessman, Leonardo Umale.

Umale complained he bought two very expensive luxury cars, a Porsche 996 Twin Turbo and a Porsche Boxter, from Coyiuto thinking that they were factory-fresh vehicles.

The vehicles were not only second-hand cars, the taxes and duties paid for them at the Bureau of Customs were deficient, Umale said he found out.

If Umale's charge holds water, the government should go after Coyiuto for tax evasion.

***

Businessman Peter Lim, owner of Hilton Heavy Equipment in Cebu City, writes to complain about alleged harassment by Rep. Antonio Cuenco.

Cuenco has alleged that Lim and his brother, Willy, are drug lords.

"Mr. Tulfo, my reputation has been destroyed by unfounded accusations that I am a drug lord. My business has suffered because of such accusations. Please help me by at least publishing my side in your column," Lim said in a letter.

***

Lim said the latest accusation against him and his brother is "old hat" since they have been cleared by no less than the House committee on drugs of which Cuenco is a member.

Even Mary "Rosebud" Ong, who linked some top police officers to the drug trade, cleared him of involvement in the nefarious trade, Lim said.

Several years ago, Lim said Cuenco approached him at a restaurant in Cebu City and told him that he, Cuenco, made a mistake in linking him to drugs.

And what about the accusations of his former employees that they helped him and his brother bring drugs into the country from Hong Kong? I asked him over the phone when I returned his call from Cebu.

"Mr. Tulfo, they wanted to get back at us for firing them," he replied.

Besides, he said, how could they have taken out drugs from Hong Kong without being detected by highly efficient Hong Kong airport policemen?

---

# 4 Nepalese arrested for 'spying'

POLICE arrested four Nepalese suspected of spying on the US Embassy in Manila.

The Nepalese, aged between 21 and 31, were arrested after they were seen taking pictures of the embassy last week, a police source said.

But two of their companions, believed to be their superiors, eluded arrest, the source added. The two escaped with the camera the suspects had used, the source added.

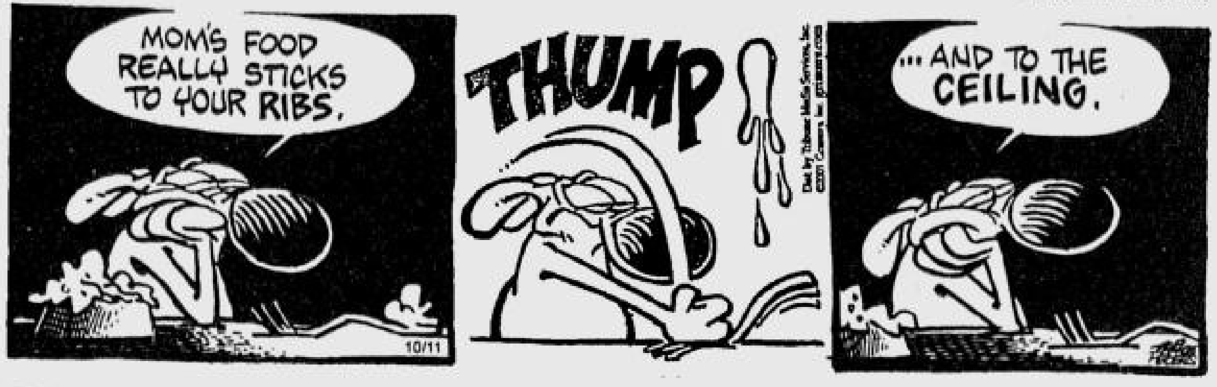
The source declined to name the Nepalese, who had difficulty speaking English. But he said the Nepalese had been in the country for the past four to eight months.

He said the Nepalese were later turned over to the Bureau of Immigration for further investigation. A preliminary check showed the Nepalese did not have any criminal record with police, the source said.

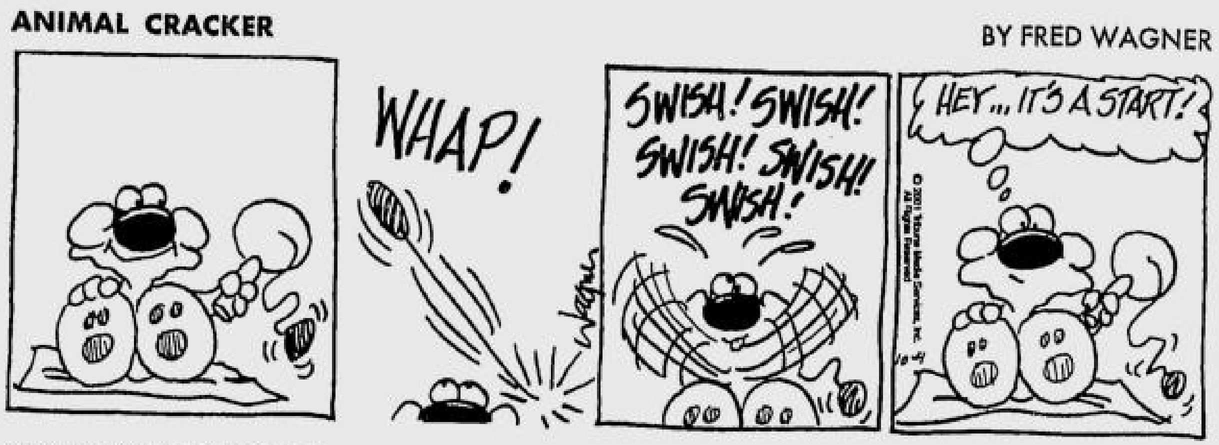
Officials of the Western Police District Station 5 denied the arrest of the Nepalese. But a member of the team from the WPD Mobile Section who made the arrest told reporters that the suspects were arrested shortly before 9 p.m. Monday in different lodging houses on M.H. del Pilar and Padre Faura Streets in Malate. He also said that two of their companions eluded the arrest.

The source said that members of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force guarding the embassy noticed the Nepalese taking pictures of the embassy on Nov. 1. The Nepalese were said to be at a restaurant at the back of the embassy when they took the pictures.
*Philip C. Tubeza*

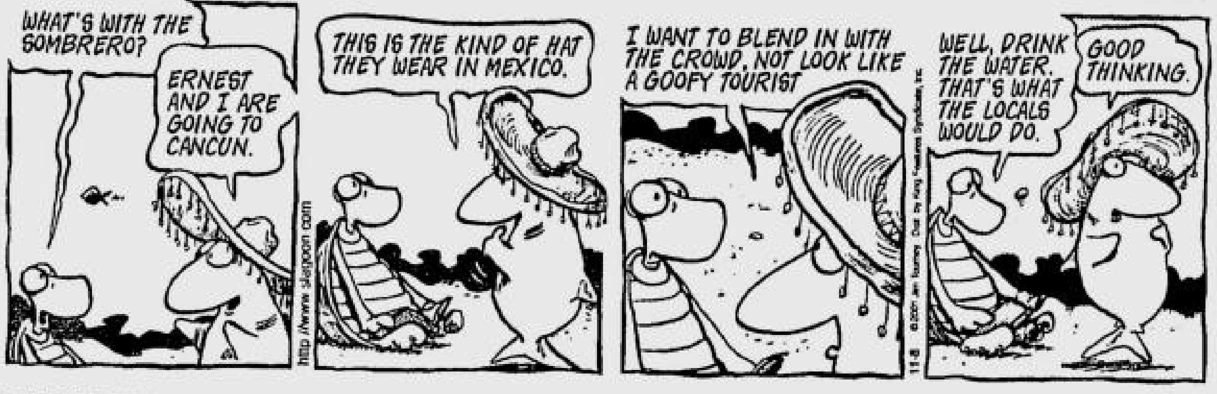
**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM** BY MIKE PETERS


MOM'S FOOD REALLY STICKS TO YOUR RIBS.
THUMP
...AND TO THE CEILING.
10/11

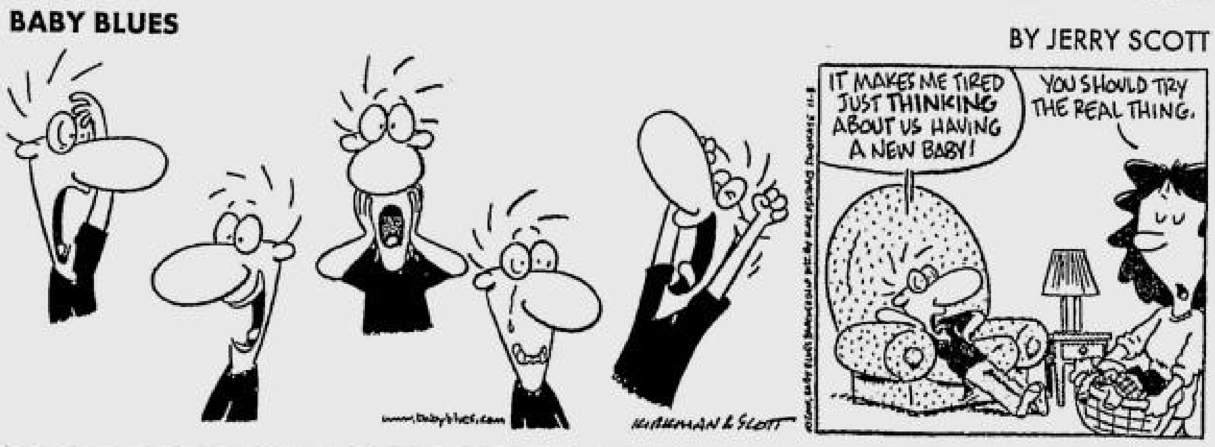
**ANIMAL CRACKER** BY FRED WAGNER


WHAP!
SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! SWISH! SWISH!
HEY... IT'S A START!

**SHERMAN'S LAGOON** BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S WITH THE SOMBRERO?
ERNEST AND I ARE GOING TO CANCUN.
THIS IS THE KIND OF HAT THEY WEAR IN MEXICO.
I WANT TO BLEND IN WITH THE CROWD, NOT LOOK LIKE A GOOFY TOURIST
WELL, DRINK THE WATER. THAT'S WHAT THE LOCALS WOULD DO.
GOOD THINKING.
http://www.slagoon.com

**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


IT MAKES ME TIRED JUST THINKING ABOUT US HAVING A NEW BABY!
YOU SHOULD TRY THE REAL THING.
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Bonnie Raitt, Alfre Woodard, Morley Safer, Courtney Thorne-Smith, Mary Hart, Parker Posey

**Happy Birthday:** It's important to direct your energy properly. Your expansive outlook and ability to complete projects are outstanding. Focus on the most important prospects and ask for help. You have developed strong friendships. Your numbers: 24, 26, 27, 31, 35, 44

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't become angry at someone's shortcomings. You have the wherewithal to get the job done. You may find new friendships or love if you join a group or club.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Be prepared to work overtime or take work home to finish a project. Your family may be disappointed if you don't have time for them. Organize your weekend so that you can satisfy everyone.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You will be charming and outgoing today. Newfound friends and acquaintances will admire your intellectual wit. Someone may envy your popularity and challenge you to a debate. Remain calm and outshine him or her.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You must ease your stress and headaches. Money matters, especially going over budget, may be at the root of your troubles. You may need to consolidate.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** A few informal financial deals may be lucrative. You will take offense if someone criticizes you. Just ignore those who are jealous.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can handle anything. You may be uncertain about your position, but your confidence should mount. Follow the path that suits you best.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** If you introduce your ideas and opinions to others, they'll be supportive. Talk to those with experience about turning your dreams into reality. The prospects look promising.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stay calm, and you won't have any problems. Go into a jealous rage, and you can expect the worst results. Keep in mind that only you can control yourself. If someone doesn't want to spend time with you, move on.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You will be in an adventurous mood. Not everyone will share your excitement. You may be overly sentimental about circumstances involving friends and relatives. Offer your assistance.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You will lose by leaving your money matters up to someone else. Don't participate in joint ventures and, above all, don't lend to friends or relatives. This is a time to save, not blow, your hard-earned cash.

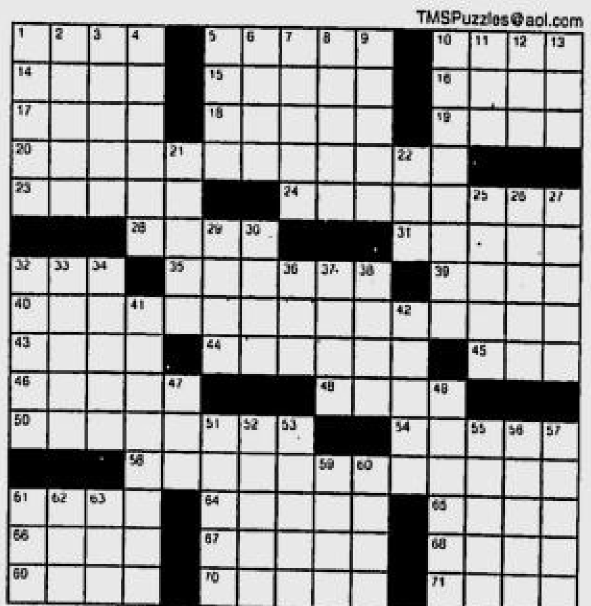
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You need joy and entertainment in your life. Get together with a friend who knows how to have a good time. He or she can shed some light on your personal problems. Don't be surprised to learn that someone you least expected has a crush on you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't hold back in dealing with co-workers or family. Frustration and anxiety will result in mental and physical stress. It's detrimental to let personal feelings interfere with productivity.

**Birthday Baby:** You are strong, resilient and in control. Your creative ability, intuition and assertiveness help you make the right choices and get what you want.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Garden legumes
5 Senator Thurmond
10 Manipulates
14 Departed
15 Sports showplace
16 "The Face Is Familiar" poet
17 Perry's creator
18 Repair again
19 Get by
20 With 58A, Spielberg film
23 Dissuade
24 Uproars
28 Secure
31 Tin Pan Alley letters
32 R.E. Lee's nation
35 Sailing vessel
39 Operatic song
40 Star of 20A
43 Amo, amas, ___... (Latin conjugation)
44 Charge
45 Lbs. and ozs.
46 Purpose
48 Thin coating
50 St. Louis baseball gang
54 Israeli desert
58 See 20A
61 Given life
64 Groups of three
65 Shoe part
66 Designer Cassini
67 Summon
68 Poetic tentmaker?
69 Jewels
70 Knot again
71 New Jersey basketball team


TMSPuzzles@aol.com

By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
9/24/01

DOWN
1 Argue a case
2 Strange
3 G-sharp
4 Cubic meters
5 New Delhi dress
6 Not kosher
7 Equip anew
8 In reserve
9 Saying
10 America's relative?
11 ___ Paulo
12 Psychic's gift
13 That girl
21 Comic-strip Dick
22 Group of shrinks
25 "The Turn of the ___"
26 Sully
27 Rhubarbs
29 Japanese mountain
30 Stiff collar
32 French Open winner of 1989
33 Pacific island group
34 Shepard and King
36 Danson or Kennedy
37 Yale grads
38 Stone
41 Artistic impressions
42 Smarting pain
47 Long period of time
49 Actor Liam
51 Say
52 Wait on
53 T.S. or George
55 Folklore creature
56 Brilliance
57 Turns sharply
59 Mischievous Norse god
60 Oh, yeah
61 Cranberry milieu
62 Corrida shout
63 "Man on the Moon" group

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | H | A | R | I | E | S | T | ■ | A | S | T | E | R | S |
| R | E | S | E | A | R | C | H | ■ | S | H | O | V | E | L |
| E | L | S | I | N | O | R | E | ■ | P | I | R | A | C | Y |
| C | L | O | T | ■ | S | A | R | D | I | N | E | C | A | N |
| H | E | R | E | S | ■ | P | E | E | R | S | ■ | U | S | E |
| E | N | T | R | A | P | ■ | A | M | A | ■ | S | E | T | S |
| S | E | S | A | M | E | ■ | T | U | T | ■ | H | E | S | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | E | N | S | ■ | R | I | M | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | A | S | E | ■ | S | H | E | ■ | O | I | L | M | A | N |
| R | U | T | S | ■ | I | O | N | ■ | N | A | T | I | V | E |
| I | R | A | ■ | M | O | A | T | S | ■ | S | E | L | E | S |
| M | E | R | C | A | N | T | I | L | E | ■ | R | E | N | T |
| M | O | L | I | N | E | ■ | C | A | R | R | I | A | G | E |
| E | L | I | N | O | R | ■ | E | N | D | A | N | G | E | R |
| D | E | T | E | R | S | ■ | S | T | A | G | G | E | R | S |

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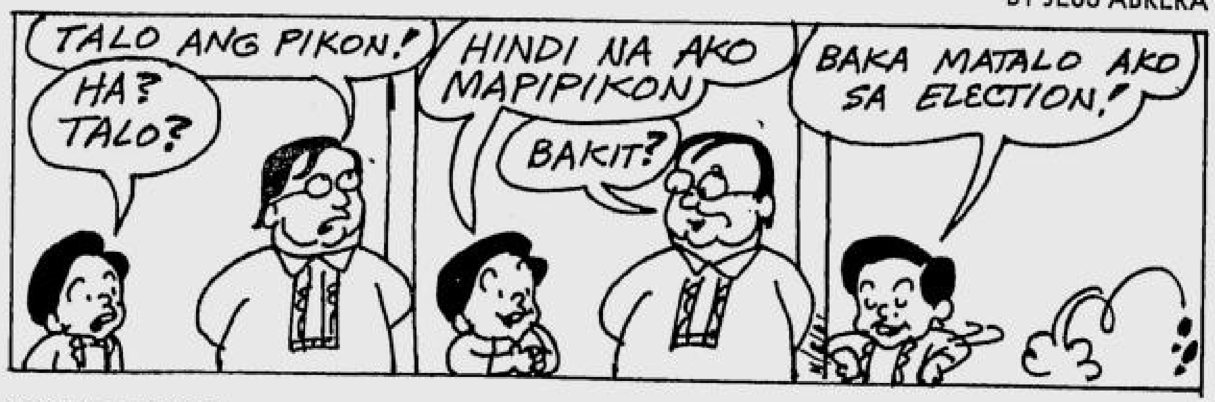
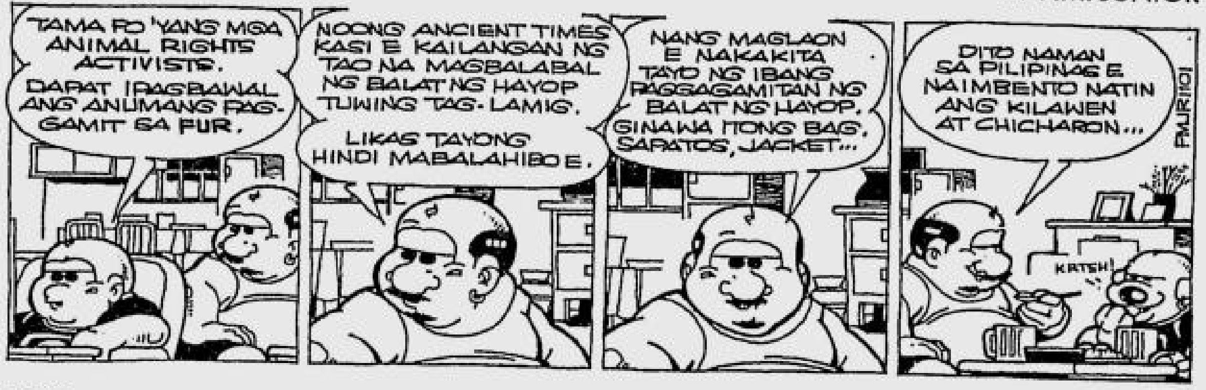
9/24/01

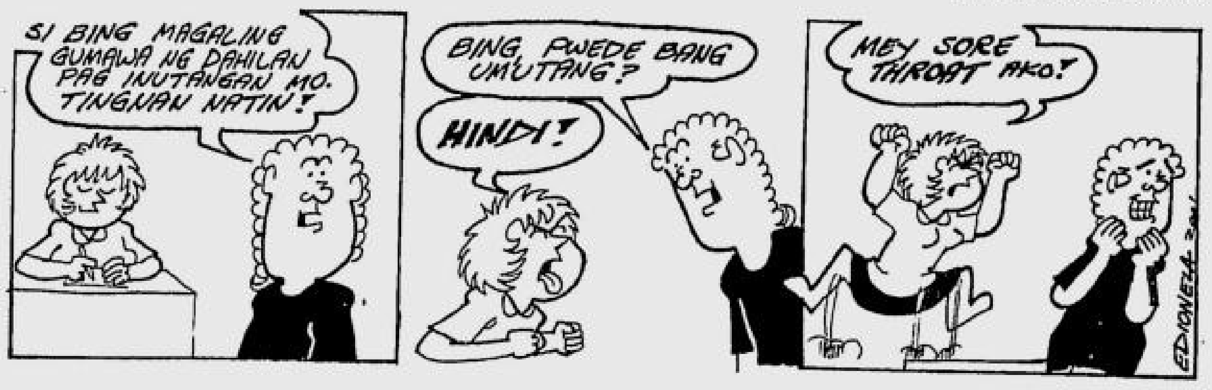
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


TALO ANG PIKON!
HA? TALO?
HINDI NA AKO MAPIPIKON
BAKIT?
BAKA MATALO AKO SA ELECTION!

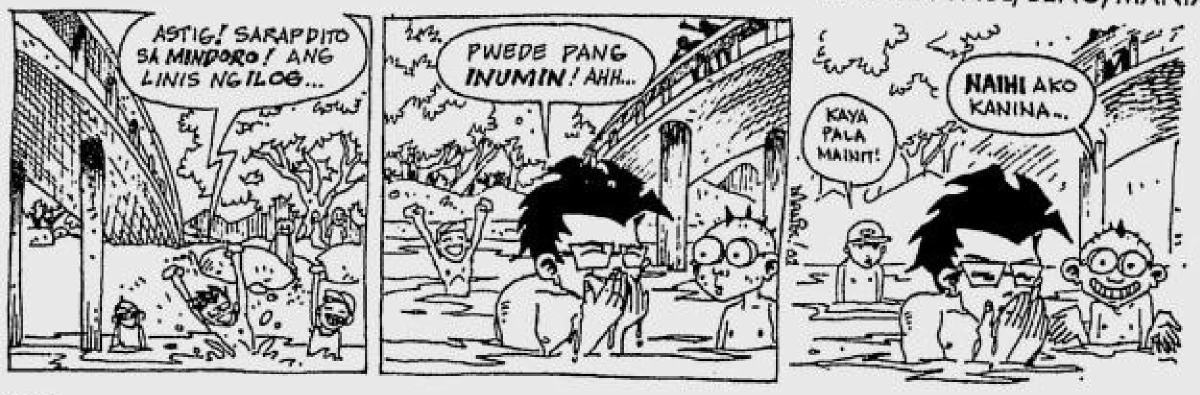
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


TAMA PO 'YANG MGA ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. DAPAT IPAGBAWAL ANG ANUMANG PAG-GAMIT SA FUR.
NOONG ANCIENT TIMES KASI E KAILANGAN NG TAO NA MAGBALABAL NG BALAT NG HAYOP TUWING TAG-LAMIG.
LIKAS TAYONG HINDI MABALAHIBO E.
NANG MAGLAON E NAKAKITA TAYO NG IBANG PAGGAGAMITAN NG BALAT NG HAYOP. GINAWA NONG BAG, SAPATOS, JACKET...
DITO NAMAN SA PILIPINAS E NAIMBENTO NATIN ANG KILAWEN AT CHICHARON...
KRTSH!
PMJR'01

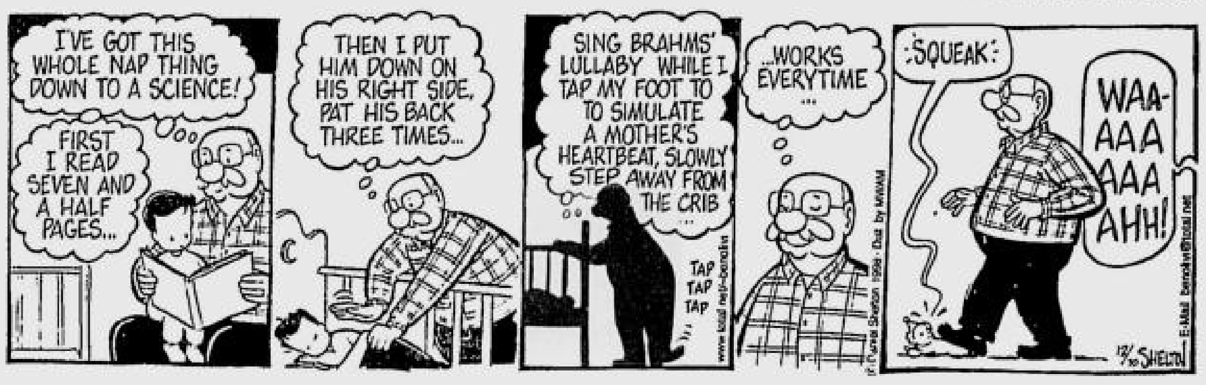
**SIMO** BY EDGAR DIONELA


SI BING MAGALING GUMAWA NG DAHILAN PAG INUTANGAN MO. TINGNAN NATIN!
BING, PWEDE BANG UMUTANG?
HINDI!
MEY SORE THROAT AKO!
EDIONELA

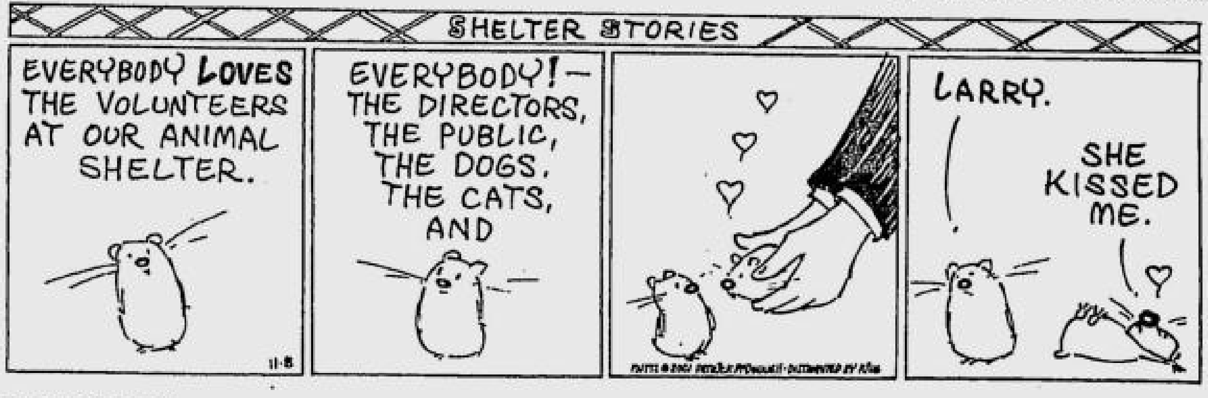
**GARAPATA BLOOD** BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


ASTIG! SARAP DITO SA MINDORO! ANG LINIS NG ILOG...
PWEDE PANG INUMIN! AHH...
KAYA PALA MAINIT!
NAIHI AKO KANINA...

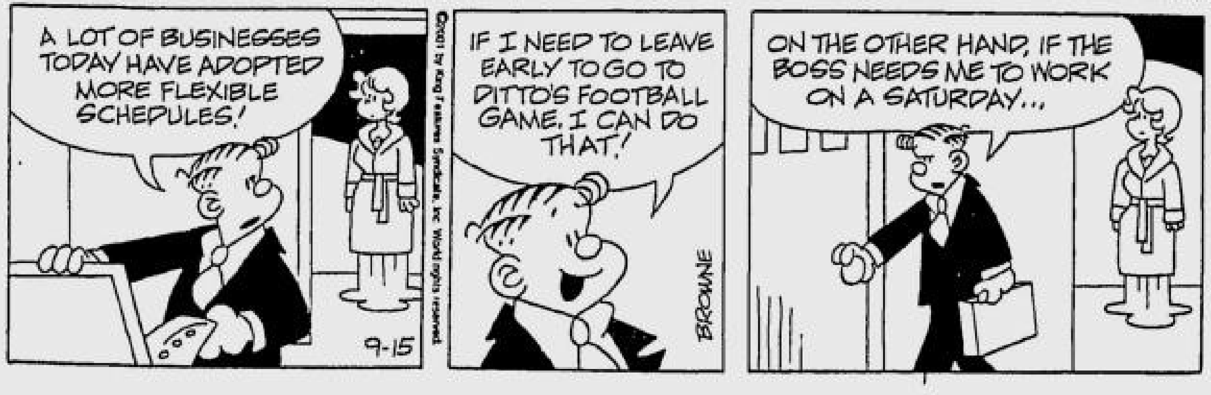
**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'VE GOT THIS WHOLE NAP THING DOWN TO A SCIENCE!
FIRST I READ SEVEN AND A HALF PAGES...
THEN I PUT HIM DOWN ON HIS RIGHT SIDE, PAT HIS BACK THREE TIMES...
SING BRAHMS' LULLABY WHILE I TAP MY FOOT TO TO SIMULATE A MOTHER'S HEARTBEAT, SLOWLY STEP AWAY FROM THE CRIB ...
TAP TAP TAP
...WORKS EVERYTIME ...
:SQUEAK:
WAA-AAA AAA AHH!
SHELTON

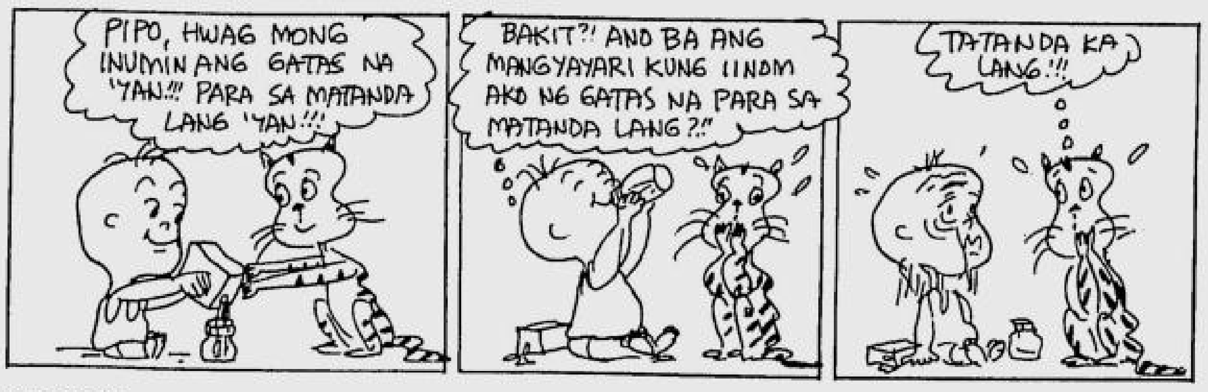
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
EVERYBODY LOVES THE VOLUNTEERS AT OUR ANIMAL SHELTER.
EVERYBODY! — THE DIRECTORS, THE PUBLIC, THE DOGS, THE CATS, AND
LARRY.
SHE KISSED ME.
11-8

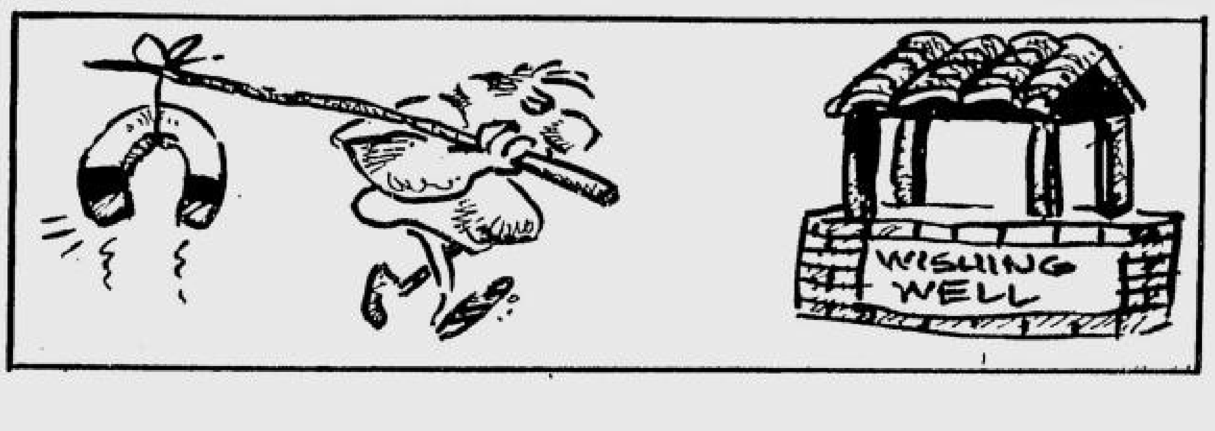
**HI AND LOIS** BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


A LOT OF BUSINESSES TODAY HAVE ADOPTED MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES!
IF I NEED TO LEAVE EARLY TO GO TO DITTO'S FOOTBALL GAME, I CAN DO THAT!
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE BOSS NEEDS ME TO WORK ON A SATURDAY...
9-15
BROWNE

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO, HWAG MONG INUMIN ANG GATAS NA 'YAN!!! PARA SA MATANDA LANG 'YAN!!!
BAKIT?! ANO BA ANG MANGYAYARI KUNG IINOM AKO NG GATAS NA PARA SA MATANDA LANG?!
TATANDA KA LANG!!!

**TULDOK** BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


WISHING WELL

# SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173866

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | KAMO |
| 3 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 4 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 5 | THE ONE |
| 6 | TRIP |
| 7 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 8 | DON'T SAY A WORD |

### SM CENTERPOINT
3140522-3161416

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 3 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 4 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 5 | THE ONE |
| 6 | KAMO |
| 7 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 8 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 9 | DOS EKIS |
| 10 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TEMPTRESS AFFAIR |
| 2 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 3 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 4 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 5 | DOS EKIS |
| 6 | TRIP |
| 7 | THE ONE |
| 8 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 9 | TRIP |
| 10 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 11 | KAMO |
| 12 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 2 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 3 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 4 | THE ONE |
| 5 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 6 | THE ONE |
| 7 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 8 | KAMO |
| 9 | TRIP |
| 10 | TRIP |
| 11 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 12 | DOS EKIS |

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | THE ONE |
| 4 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 5 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 6 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 7 | KAMO |
| 8 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 9 | TRIP |
| 10 | THE ONE |
| 11 | DOS EKIS |
| 12 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### SM TUTUBAN
2514302

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | TRIP |
| 4 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | TRIP |
| 4 | DOS EKIS |
| 5 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 6 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 7 | THE ONE |
| 8 | THE ONE |
| 9 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 10 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 11 | KAMO |
| 12 | TRIP |

### SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TEMPTRESS AFFAIR |
| 2 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 3 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 4 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 5 | DOS EKIS |
| 6 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 7 | TRIP |
| 8 | THE ONE |
| 9 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 10 | KAMO |

### SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820005

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### SM CEBU
2313816

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 4 | HIYAS SA PARAISO |
| 5 | TRIP |
| 6 | DOS EKIS |
| 7 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |

### SM ILOILO
3209422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOWN TOEARTH |
| 2 | CLOSED |
| 3 | THE ONE |
| 4 | DOS EKIS |
| 5 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 6 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | TRIP |

### SM PAMPANGA
7120015

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRAINING DAY |
| 3 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 4 | DOS EKIS |
| 5 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 6 | TRIP |

### SM SUCAT
8294075

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 2 | DOS EKIS |
| 3 | THE ONE |
| 4 | TRIP |

### SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
MOVIE THEATERS

dts DIGITAL SOUND · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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# AYALA CINEMAS

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reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

All Digital Sounds

### GLORIETTA 1
(formerly QUAD)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | KAMO |
| 4 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |

### GLORIETTA 4

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | JEEPERS CREEPERS | in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 2 | THE ONE | in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 | THE ONE THX | in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 4 | BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE Art Film | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 5 | DOWN TO EARTH | in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 6 | DON'T SAY A WORD | in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 7 | LEGALLY BLONDE | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |

### GREENBELT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | JEEPERS CREEPERS | in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND |
| 2 | TRIP | in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 | THE ONE | in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND |
| 4 | SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS<br>NOV. 10, 16, 17 - 8 PM<br>NOV. 11, 18 - 3 PM<br>Onstage | |

### ALABANG TOWN CENTER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE THX | in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 2 | THE ONE | in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 | JEEPERS CREEPERS | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 4 | TRIP | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 5 | DON'T SAY A WORD | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |

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# MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

### Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DDS) | GHOST OF MARS |
| 2 (SDDS) | THE ONE |
| 3 (DTS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 4 GOLD (DTS) | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 5 GOLD (DOLBY) | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 6 GOLD (SDDS) | THE ONE |
| 7 GOLD (DOLBY) | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 8 | DOS EKIS |
| 9 | TRIP |
| 10 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |

### Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | ROSARIO 18 |
| 3 (DTS) | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 (DTS) | |
| Golden Pearl THX | |

### Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 3 | KAMO |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE ONE |
| 5 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 2 | TEMPTRESS AFFAIR |
| 3 | TRIP |
| 4 | DOS EKIS |
| 5 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 6 | THE ONE |
| 7 | RESERVE |
| 8 | RESERVE |

### PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | FAST & FURIOUS |

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 3 | TRIP |

### Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| A | KAMO |

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | KAMO |
| 4 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

## GOTESCO CINEMA

### City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | THE ONE |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | KAMO |
| 5 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 6 | TRIP |
| 7 (DTS) | TEMPTRESS AFFAIR |
| 8 (SDDS) | GHOST OF MARS |
| 9 (DOLBY) | JEEPERS CREEPERS |

### Caloocan
tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | THE ONE |

### Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | THE ONE |
| 4 (SDDS) | GHOST OF MARS |
| 5 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 6 (DOLBY) | THE ONE |
| 7 (DTS) | KAMO |
| 8 | TEMPTRESS AFFAIR |
| 9 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |

### Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | KAMO |
| 4 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 5 (SDDS) | GHOST OF MARS |
| 6 | TRIP |
| 7 (DOLBY) | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 8 | DOS EKIS |

### Ortigas
tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 (DTS) | KAMO |
| 4 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 5 (SDDS) | GHOST OF MARS |

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |

### Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | |
| Lords | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| Jennet | TEMPTRESS AFFAIR |

### MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | TRIP |

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | RESERVE |

### New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | RESERVE |
| 6 | KAMO |

### Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | RESERVE |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### Berma
tel 879.2029

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |

### CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | KAMO |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |

## CINEMA 2000

### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ROSARIO 18 |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 (DTS) | THE ONE |

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE BODY |
| 2 (DTS) | TRIP |
| 3 (DOLBY) | THE ONE |
| 4 | TRAINING DAY |

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 (DOLBY) | THE ONE |
| 3 (DTS) | TRAINING DAY |
| 4 | THE BODY |

### Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | SOON TO OPEN |
| 4 | SOON TO OPEN |

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| 4 (DTS) | KAMO |

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 (DTS) | TRAINING DAY |
| 4 | ROSARIO 18 |
| 5 | SAKIM |

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | SAKIM |

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | SAKIM |

### Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | HIYAS |

### Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | TRAINING DAY |

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | TRIP |
| 2 (DTS) | THE ONE |

### Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CLOSED |

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TRIP |
| 2 | ROSARIO 18 |
| 3 | SAKIM |

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOS EKIS |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 4 | HOLE |

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY EX) | TRAINING DAY |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | SOON TO OPEN |
| 4 (DTS EX) | THE ONE |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING · THX · DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
NOW SHOWING
THE ONE
CMG INTERNATIONAL

---

# ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

### GALLERIA
632 9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 270

| | |
|---|---|
| ① THX | THE ONE |
| 2 | THE ONE |
| 3 | TRIP |
| 4 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 5 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 6 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 7 | TRAINING DAY |
| 8 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 9 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 10 | GHOST OF MARS |

### ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| 4 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 5 | TRIP |
| 6 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 7 | DON'T SAY A WORD |

### NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | TRIP |
| 4 | THE ONE |
| 5 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 6 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 7 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 8 | THE ONE |

### IMUS
(046) 471-8168

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE ONE |
| 2 | TRIP |
| 3 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 4 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| 5 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 6 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 2 | TRAINING DAY |
| 3 | DOS EKIS |
| 4 | GHOST OF MARS |
| 5 | THE BODY |
| 6 | JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKES |

### SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX · dts · SDDS · DOLBY · DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

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# THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

### ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

| | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | MANANABAS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | 13 DAYS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | AMERICAN PIE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | AMERICA'S SWEETHEART |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | EXTREME FORCE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY) | THE HOLE |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY) | NAKED NIGHTS |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY) | MANANABAS |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| NEW FRONTIER | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

### MANILA

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SCORPIO NIGHTS 2 / NIGHT JOB |
| ODEON | THE ONE |
| ODEON-2 | SAKIM SA PAG IBIG |
| ROBEN | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| TANDEM-1 | SEX MEDUSA |
| TANDEM-2 | SEX EDUCATION |
| TIMES | BROTHERHOOD / STOP |

### QUEZON CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| REMAR | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| REMAR-2 | SAKIM SA PAG IBIG |

### NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

| | |
|---|---|
| A | TRIP |
| B | THE ONE |
| C | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |

### MANDALUYONG CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL |
| CINEMA-2 | THE ONE |

### CAINTA RIZAL

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO |
| CINEMA-2 | TRIP |
| CINEMA-3 | DOS EKIS |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | KAMO |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | GHOST OF MARS |
| CINEMA-6 | HIYAS |
| CINEMA-7 | HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL |
| CINEMA-8 | TRIP |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | THE ONE |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE ONE |
| CINEMA-11(SDDS) | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| CINEMA-12 | JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| CINEMA-14 | DON'T SAY A WORD |
| CINEMA-15 | TRIP |

### LORES

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |

### POWER PLANT CINEMA

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-1 | JOY RIDE |
| CINEMA-2 | DOWN TO EARTH |
| CINEMA-3 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| CINEMA-4 | TRAINING DAY |
| CINEMA-5 | GHOST OF MARS |
| CINEMA-6 | DON'T SAY A WORD |

### UNIWIDE METROMALL

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PIÑAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |

### UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARAÑAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |

---

BORJAL

# Showbiz newcomer is one cool dude

WITH his tremendous amount of energy, you can hardly keep up with show biz newcomer John-C Borjal.

Late into the night, you can see him jumping about and clowning around.

Standing six feet tall, this young looker may give other actors some bit of real competition. But John-C won't get in the way of his idols. In fact, John-C wants to follow in their footsteps.

He wants to be an expert in drama and comedy like Richard Gomez, who started as funnyman on TV's "Palibhasa Lalake" and made a name for himself as a serious actor.

A third year mechanical engineering student at the Mapua Institute of Technology, John-C scoffs when teased that he excels in numbers. But dancing is another subject. John-C can be one cool dude on the dance floor, impressing girls with his moves and grooves.

# Boy . . .

(From page A21)

sometimes like a river. It ends somewhere but it leads to an ocean. Just like where Senators Pangilinan and Recto are right now. They used to be known as the husbands of **Sharon Cuneta** and **Vilma Santos** but now they have embraced a greater realm by joining politics. Boy picks their brains and grills the new and brilliant senators. For a change, the interview is devoid of anything about their superstar wives.

10. **Tessa Prieto Valdes.** Politics is one big circus. Ralph and Kiko can attest to that. There are just too many clowns, acrobats and magicians. But that's politics. What if your life is a series of never-ending merry-making that no circus can ever match? Such is the charmed life of Tessa Prieto Valdes, socialite and fashionista non pareil. Feel like what it is to be part of the crème de la crème even just for a moment. Take a peek into Tessa's exciting world of fame, fortune and fashion.

10. **Piolo Pascual.** Tessa's unusual flair and taste has always made her stand out. Speaking of standouts, no one but no one could be a stand-in for Piolo. He's so HOT!

Hotter even are all the nasty rumors about him. Once and for all let's get it straight from Piolo if he's straight or otherwise. Feast on Piolo and all the juicy, spicy stuff he's made of.

What a year it's been and the year ain't over yet. Our 11 Most Interesting Personalities have truly filled 2001 with zest, drama, exposés, power, and impact.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000 @yah

# ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

## Major film stardom for Donita Rose

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

IT'S been years and years since **Donita Rose** first appeared in films, but it's only now that she's poised to become a major star. Predictably enough her ascension toward the top is the result, not of her triumphs on the local performing scene, but of her Asia-wide popularity as a TV veejay based in Singapore.

True to form, local fans who didn't think much of Donita before are ga-ga over her success abroad, and are fawning over her in retroactive frenzy.

Eager to mine this "sudden" adulation for all the box-office gold it's worth, movie producers are besieging Donita with a flurry of movie offers—eight, at last count.

The movie projects propose to team Donita up with **Aga Muhlach** and other bankable leading men, so they stand a good chance of hitting it big at the box office. This would help assure the continuing ascendancy of Donita's local stellar career.

So, it could be time for her to give up her veejay slot in Singapore. After such a long time on the job, she must be ready for a long break!

Ironically, now that Donita is poised to finally become a big star here, she's no longer as fresh-faced as when she was a starlet a number of years ago, when she was hailed as the **Audrey Hepburn** of the Philippines.

In fact, she sometimes looks rather peaked, so creative lighting and camerawork will have to be used to make her appear to still be as dewey-skinned and effervescent as she used to be.

Perhaps her new starrers shouldn't try so hard. They should show her as a young adult, not as the breathless girl-woman of old, because that would be like living in the past that can't really be reclaimed from the inexorable onus of age and gravity.

After all, even **Aga Muhlach** is no longer a frisky cockerel, so the adult mold would be right for them in the movie they're scheduled to do together.

It would also help if Donita took the craft of acting more seriously now that she could be doing so many movies, one after the other. A long acting workshop instead of the usual quickie course would be just the ticket to give her performances the confidence, substance and subtlety they've tended to lack in the past.

It's OK to deliver middling performances when you're just a middling star, but when you're about to become to big "new" female star of the year, you need to come up with more definitive and varied portrayals—otherwise, all of your attendant publicity will only exaggerate on the rebound the insufficiency of your characterizations.

It's great that Donita is finally getting the attention-calling roles that should have one to her years ago, but she'd better live up to viewers' heightened expectations, or else her ascendancy could turn out to be anticlimactic.

### Unique appeal

WE notice among the new crop of young stars and starlets being launched by TV-movie studios this year, it's hard to tell one from another, because they tend to look the same.

Many of them are goodlooking and personable, and some of them could be talented performers, but they lack variety in their projection, so how can the viewing public single them out?

Instead of following a formula in terms of looks and image, studios who launch new talents should keep an eye out for unique personality and appeal. After all, stars are stars because they stand out and have their own charisma that marks them for special attention and adulation.

If they all look like teen Aga Muhlachs and **Gretchen Barrettos**, how can they come into their own as stars with their own reason for being seen and admired for longer than a fickle season? In show business, variety is the spice, and most clones are forgotten before they can make their marks.

### Movies on TV

THE CINEMAX movie channel presents these viewable films this week:

Thursday, Nov. 8, 12:45 p.m., "The Cotton Club." Directed by **Francis Ford Coppola**, this homage to 1920s Harlem has great style and a soundtrack full of **Duke Ellington**'s music.

**Richard Gere** stars as a cornet player whose dreams of becoming a movie star are endangered when he falls in love with his gangster protector's mistress (**Diane Lane**).

5 p.m., "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" This black comedy stars **Joan Crawford** as a cripple who's at the mercy of her demented sister (**Bette Davis**), whose frightful make-up will either terrify you or reduce you to giggling fits.

9 p.m., "The Philadelphia Experiment." This suspense thriller plays with the idea of time travel as two men on a ship during World War II fall into a hole in time and are transported to 1984. Intriguing and entertaining, the film stars **Michael Pare**, **Nancy Allen** and **Bobby DiCiccio**.

## Boy Abunda plus 11 equals a most interesting dozen

**DOLLYWOOD**

*Dolly Anne Carvajal*

IT HAS been three frenzied months of preparation for the TV special "Most Interesting People With Boy Abunda." When I agreed to write for **Boy Abunda**'s special, I was glad for it would give me a chance to rekindle my friendship with Boy, although he told me during our first meeting for the show that our friendship never got snuffed out anyway.

Boy and I instinctively know each other's quirks and fantasies. We're almost like twins when it comes to affairs of the heart.

I blurted out one of my original one-liners when Boy interviewed me at the height of my doomed romance with **Robin Padilla**. He asked me pointblank, "So are you pregnant?" I shot back, "Yes I'm pregnant (pause . . .) with thoughts but not necessarily about Robin."

From then on, that became a running joke between Boy and me. So you can just imagine how much fun we had filming his special.

I'll miss our ribbing and jousting in between takes. Thanks to you, Boy, and of course the rest of the team, especially *Tita* **Chit, Ethel, Mickey, Luigi, Sen, Alco** for such an awesome adventure. Working with you guys is its own reward.

I'd let you in on what we cooked up for you in "M.I.P. with Boy Abunda," which will be aired Sunday, Nov. 11, 9:30-11:30 p.m., ABS CBN 2.

We chose 11 personalities from various fields and featured them with a twist. No question was left unanswered. Dream interviews. True talk.

1.-2. **Martin Nievera** and **Gary Valenciano**. They are equal yet different. How equal? How different? Let's see where their rivalry has taken them so far. Do they co-exist peacefully? If one is up, does the other one have to be down? You'll see The Concert King and Pure Energy like you've never seen them before.

3. **Ayen Munji Laurel**. No doubt, Martin and Gary reign supreme in the concert scene. To each his own throne. Next in line, you'll get a chance to know a true-to-life princess, Ayen Munji Laurel, once a poor little rich girl who's now finally living and loving happily.

4. **Emily Abrera**. From one woman of inner strength we go to another, the chief executive officer of one of the top advertising companies, Mckann Erickson. Her creative mind has launched a thousand products. When it's Emily's idea, everyone's sold. Let's find out how the power of one woman has captured the male-dominated world of advertising.

5. **Ernie Baron**. After giving you a dose of woman power, let's get into the knowledge power of Ernie Baron. Mr. "Know It All" never says "no" to any question. Boy will ask him questions that are not answerable by any book but only by Ka Ernie's heart.

6. Col. **Victor Corpuz**. The signature line of Ernie Baron is so true. Knowledge equals power. And if there is someone who knows too many truths and secrets, it's Colonel Corpuz. The main man will tell it like it really is. His startling revelations just keep unraveling.

7. **Rio Diaz Cojuangco**. Colonel Corpuz did a good job in exposing the ills of men in uniform. But what about sickness that has no proven cure? Rio knows this too well. So much has been written and said about her battle with cancer. Just like her name, which means river, Rio's zest for life just keeps flowing. Upstream. Boy joins Rio in an intimate conversation with God.

8.-9. Sen. **Francis Pangilinan** and Sen. **Ralph Recto**. Long live Rio! Truly life is

BOY/ A20

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DOWN TO EARTH - P 13<br>11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40 | JEEPERS CREEPERS - R 18<br>11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 | LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13<br>11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 |
| DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13<br>12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 | TRAINING DAY - R 18<br>11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 | THE ONE - P 13<br>11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 |

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
SONY.COM/THEONE

*All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner*

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

NOW SHOWING

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
NOW SHOWING
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"Beautiful And Powerful!"
"Two Thumbs Up!"

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4

In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

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starring John Cusack & Kate Beckinsale @ THE PERFECT DATE MOVIEHOUSE

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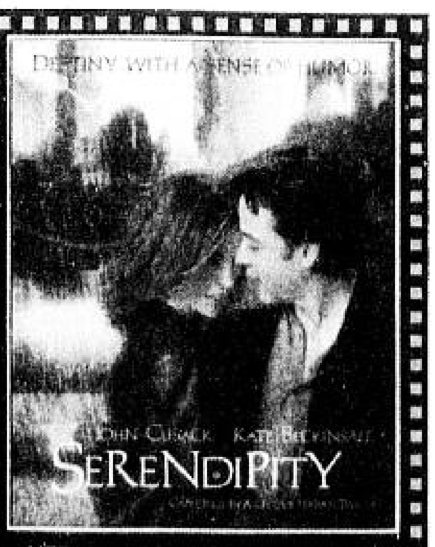
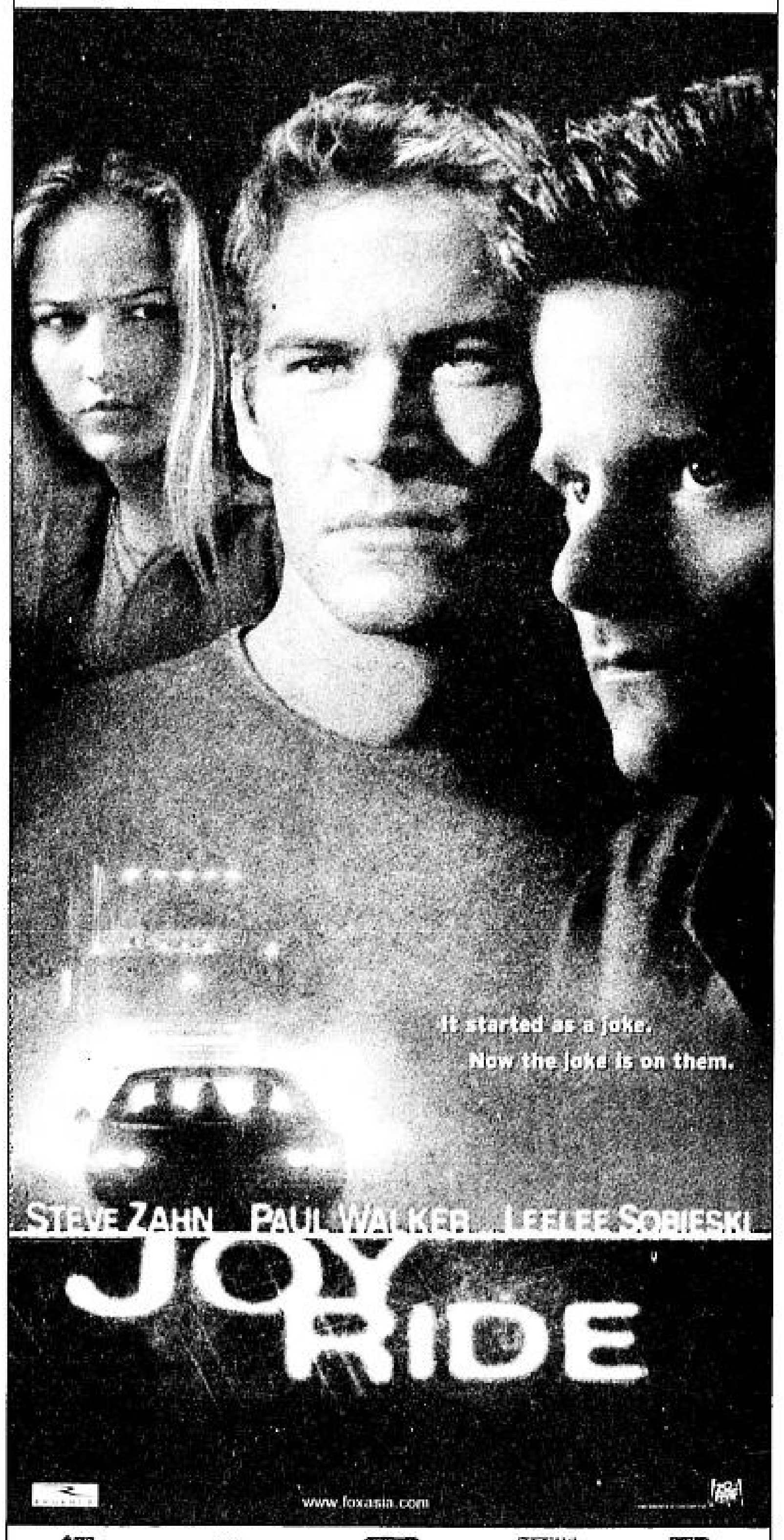
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3770 Series of 2001.



MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Opens Nov. 14 (Wed.) @ AYALA CINEMAS
FreshBurst LISTERINE SKYFILMS

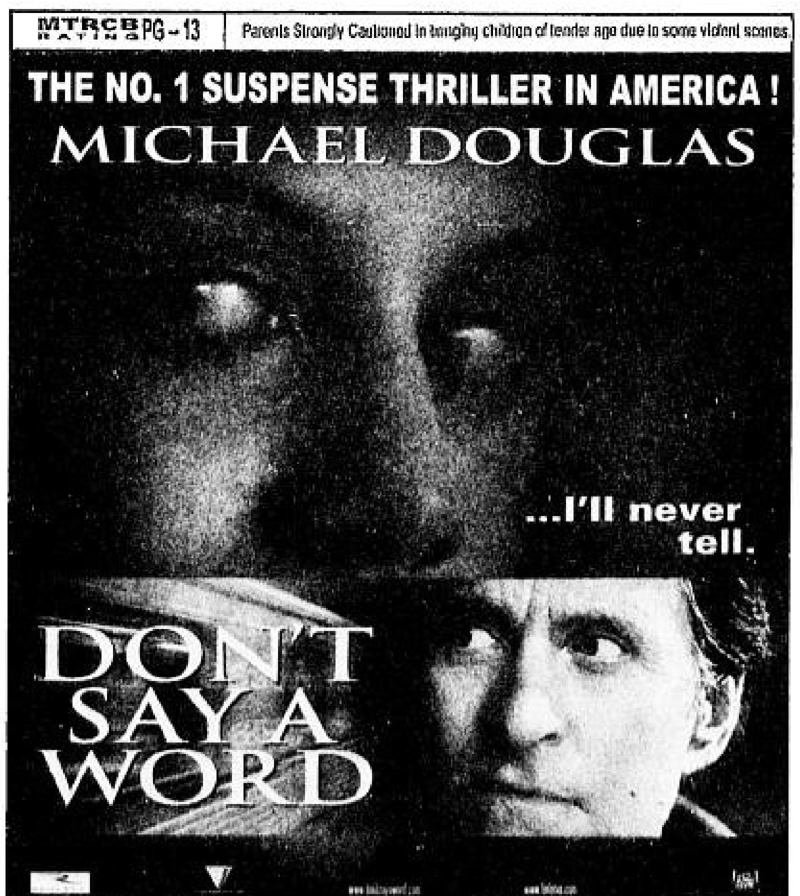
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT
'COZ THIS WILL BE ONE HELL OF A RIDE!


It started as a joke.
Now the joke is on them.
STEVE ZAHN PAUL WALKER LEELEE SOBIESKI
JOY RIDE
www.foxasia.com

DISTRIBUTED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS
OPENS NOV. 14

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes.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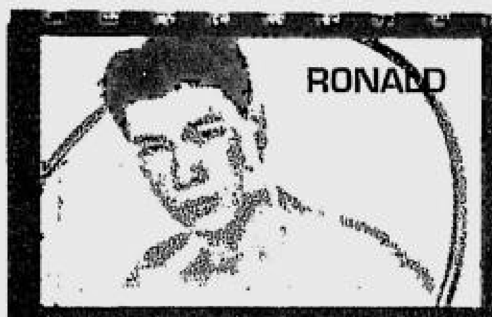
DON'T SAY A WORD

DISTRIBUTED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.
SECOND WEEK!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LOUIE S.

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LOUIE

JOEL

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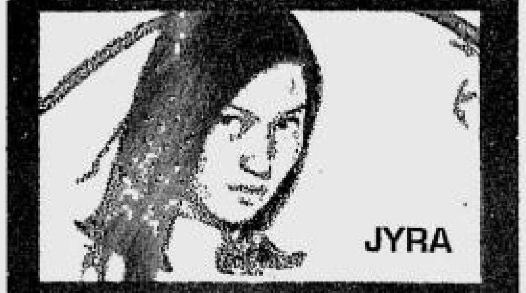

JYRA

JAS

DJ

CARL

PARISH

KIT

## Who's your pick for the right model?

## Text in your vote to win this model.

LISA

ERIE

GEOFF

JAMIL

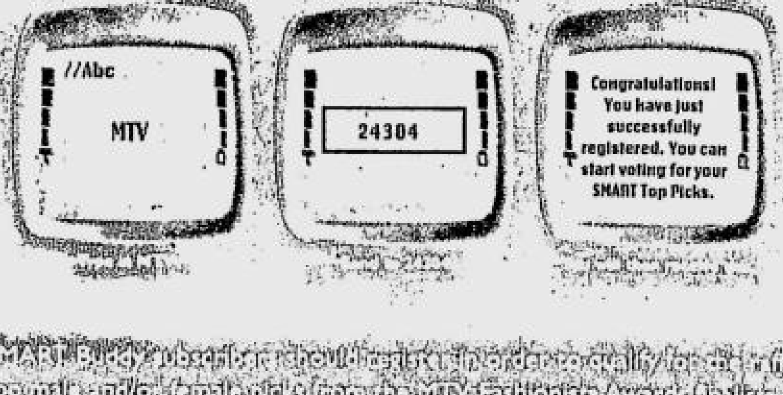
EVERILLE

2TAY

AVA

Think you know who's got the look? Then you could get a new SMART Buddy celfone with a SMART Red plus SIM card for free! Just use your SMART celfone to pick the SMART Top Picks of the Year in the MTV Fashionista Awards and you could win one of two Nokia 8250 Phone Kits. It's so easy! Just register once then text in your vote for your favorite male and female models. If your picks become the SMART Top Picks of the Year then you've got a chance to win. So join now. And pick up a new SMART Buddy celfone just by picking the right face!

**HOW TO REGISTER**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MTV

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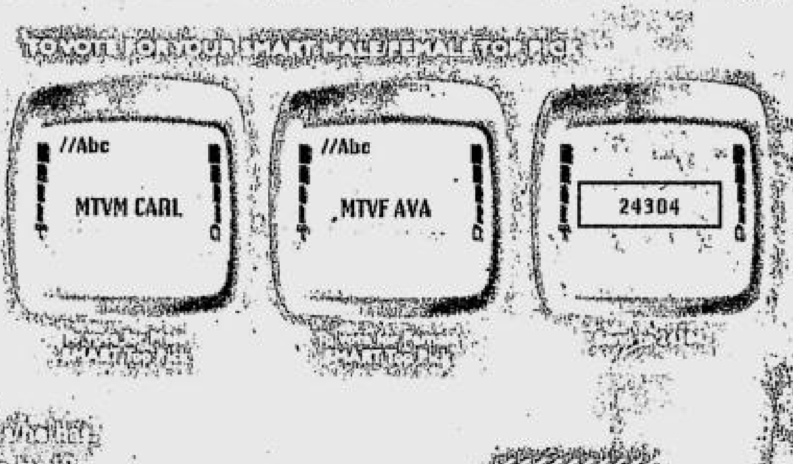
Congratulations! You have just successfully registered. You can start voting for your SMART Top Picks.

**TO VOTE FOR YOUR SMART MALE/FEMALE TOP PICK**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MTVM CARL

//Abc

MTVF AVA

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**MECHANICS:**

1. SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers should register in order to qualify for this raffle. After registration, they may vote for their top male and/or female picks from the MTV Fashionista Awards finalists. All votes should be in by 12 midnight of Nov. 27, 2001.
2. If your top pick(s) become the SMART Top Picks of the Year, you have a chance to win one of the 2 SMART Buddy Nokia 8250 phone kits that SMART will be raffling off among the lucky texters.
3. Draw date will be held at the SMART office 27th floor SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue on November [illegible], 2001 at 2 pm.
4. All winners will be notified through a congratulatory text message, a call and registered mail.
5. Prizes will be claimed at Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, 10th floor [illegible] Building, 108 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. To claim the prize, the winner must be able to present the congratulatory text message, notification letter and any valid ID.
6. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of notification will be forfeited with the prior approval of DTI.
7. Employees of SMART Communications, Bidshot Wireless Services, [illegible], PILTEL, Telecoms Specialists Inc. and their respective advertising agencies, as well as non-revenue SMART special subscribers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining this promotion.
8. Promo period is from November [illegible] - 27, 2001.

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# BUSINESS

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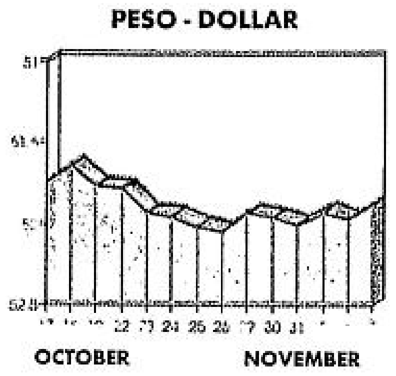


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

**Peso-Dollar Rate**

P 51.88 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 7, 2001

¥ 121.10 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 7, 2001

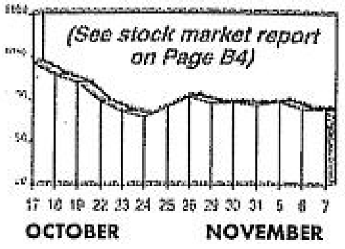
**GOLD:$279.90/280.40**
per ounce Hong Kong,
Nov. 7, 2001

### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks end flat

STOCKS ended little changed yesterday, with the US Federal Reserve rate cut of 50 basis points and prospects of similar easing by local authorities failing to excite the local market, traders said. The main composite index ended just 0.23 of a point higher at 988.79, up 0.02 percent. *Reuters*

**PSE Composite Index**



# Fed cuts rates to 40-yr low; BSP to follow suit

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE US Federal Reserve slashed its key interest rates yesterday to their lowest level in 40 years and left the door open to more rate reductions in a further effort to revive the shell-shocked US economy.

The half-point cut sent the federal funds rate to 2 percent from 2.5 percent, and the symbolic discount rate to 1.5 percent from 2 percent.

Locally, the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to cut its overnight rates today, the 11th time this year, by at least a quarter-of-a-percentage point or to their lowest since July 1995.

"We will likely cut the overnight rates but the level would have to be determined by the board in its meeting (today)," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

A quarter-point cut in the central bank's overnight rates would bring down the borrowing cost to 8.5 percent and lending to 10.75 percent.

As the US economy reeled from the impact of the Sept. 11 terror strikes, the Fed established the lowest rate since it began using the federal funds rate as a key monetary policy tool in the late 1980s. It is also effectively the lowest level for the rate since September 1961.

The Federal Open Market Committee said that "heightened uncertainty and concerns about a deterioration in business conditions both here and abroad are damping economic activity."

It maintained that the risks to the US economy "are weighted mainly toward conditions that may generate economic weakness"—a sign to financial markets that it may ease rates further.

"It was a surprising statement. Having eased 50 basis points, there was no hint that they are ready to slow down, much less be at a resting point," said Richard Berner, chief US economist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

"That evinces more concern (about the economy) than I would have thought," Berner said.

Merrill Lynch economist Gerald Cohen said the Fed is likely not finished cutting rates with the US economy still in the doldrums.

"With the economy hemorrhaging jobs, near-term risks remain distinctly to the downside. We expect the Fed funds rate to be down to 1.5 percent by early next year," Cohen said.

The Fed implemented its third 50-basis-point cut in rates since the Sept. 11 attacks, which have hurt an already weakened US economy.

The Fed noted that among the effects of the attacks would be "the necessary reallocation of resources to enhance security," which it said "may restrain advances in productivity for a time."

But the panel said "the long-term prospects for productivity growth and the economy remain favorable and should become evident once the unusual forces restraining demand abate."

The lowering of rates is expected

FED/ B2

"LOADED... fails to describe everything stuffed into this Sentra"
Raymond Tribdino
Motoring Writer
Philippine Daily Inquirer

The Nissan Sentra Exalta.
"The engine accelerates so smoothly and quietly, you'll forget the engine is running until you glance at the tachometer"
Tessa Salazar, Motoring Writer Philippine Daily Inquirer

[ Exalta GS Automatic with sunroof shown ]

Experience the New Nissan Exalta. Its Direct Ignition System, Advanced Engine and Valve Timing Control, Silent Chain Design, Micro-finished Crankshaft & Cam Lobes and Fail Safe System of the revolutionary QG engine promise smooth and reliable performance with luxury that simply goes beyond its class. The Nissan Sentra Exalta. Ride it. Drive it. Enjoy it. See it at your nearest Nissan dealer today.

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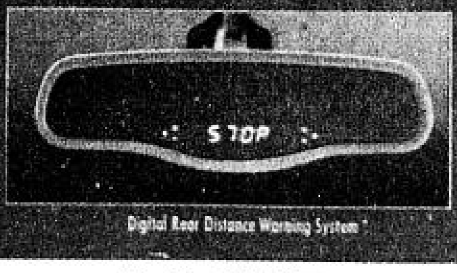
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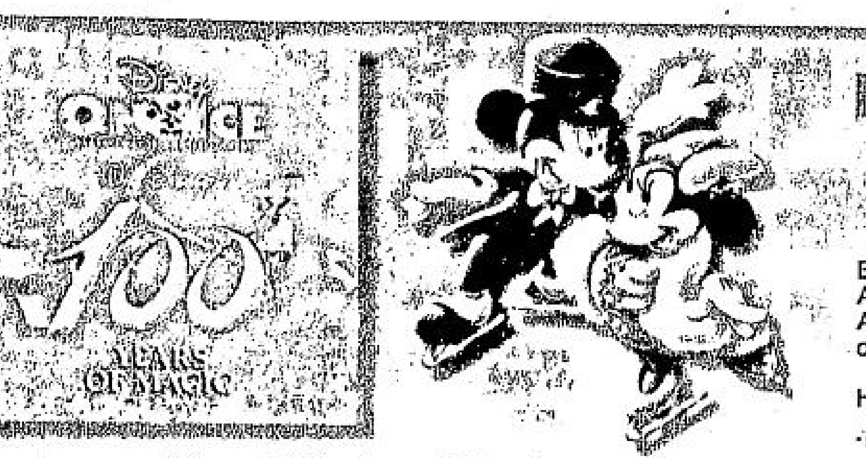

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# Delaying the gain

**BREAKTIME**

*Conrado R. Banal III*

SURELY those of you who are toasted everyday in heavy traffic, are eagerly awaiting what the DOTC have to say about the railway system on Edsa.

Well, here it is: Just wait a little longer. Nobody knows when the DOTC will finally make up its mind. Let's just hope it does before you turn into crouton.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez wants to hurry up things. His boss Gloriaetta has this vision of mass transit systems in the metropolis.

But standing in the way of realizing Gloriaetta's vision are some underlings of Alvarez. I heard that they are endorsing two foreign groups to get the project.

Thus, top officials of the department can't seem to agree on what to do as yet. They have the luxury of time. The project is already delayed.

If the project were a PBA game, the DOTC would be slapped a technical foul for delaying the game. One more, and its coach would be cut into tiny pieces. Just kidding.

* * *

ANYWAY, many, many moons ago, the contractor of the railway system, the Metro Rail Transit Corp., wanted to begin work in the so-called MRT extension right away.

It's that 5-kilometer stretch from the West Triangle in Quezon City, right where the existing railway ends, to the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City.

Actually, the so-called MRT "extension" is part of the original contract. The DOTC divided the project into two phases, for reasons only DOTC could think up.

For why on earth should the DOTC leave behind such a short stretch? With just a little more work, the MRT would already have been linked with the LRT.

Together they would have made a complete loop of a railway system around the metropolis. This would have greatly eased traffic.

But from what I have gathered, the DOTC feared that the MRT, if it was connected with the LRT, would steal business away from the LRT. Solution: Don't connect them.

It was a stupid decision. The two systems should only help each other. They are different from Badoy and Garchitorena. They don't destroy each other.

* * *

AT the moment, the DOTC and MRTC are still ironing out the terms on the MRT extension project. Alvarez himself actually ordered the resumption of the talks.

Earlier, upon prodding of his underlings, Alvarez announced that he was terminating the talks, because this hardheaded MRTC failed to meet the deadline.

In effect, MRTC had to meet the deadline, which DOTC imposed by itself, and the only way for MRTC to do so would be to agree to whatever the DOTC wanted.

I wouldn't really call it a lopsided arrangement, but some people in the DOTC managed to convince the poor Alvarez to take such a stupid position.

From what I gathered, the two sides are still trying to resolve only five more issues. There used to be 62 issues.

But the MRTC lawyers gave up their weekends, and probably even their love life, to resolve as many of the issues as they could, if only to meet the DOTC deadline.

Now only the more contentious issues remain. Among them is the pricing. How much should the government pay MRTC for the work? Not much, let's hope.

* * *

WORD is, the DOTC wants the same pricing as the first phase of the project. It was nevertheless set in 1996, or some five years ago.

Since then many things happened. The Asian crisis, for one. The peso dollar rate also went crazy. I mean, five years can really be a long time.

Well, if the DOTC did not delay the project, cutting it into two phases, the government would have gotten everything at 1996 prices.

That's what a delay always does, actually. It makes things more expensive in the long run. So the more the DOTC delays today, the more would the thing be costly.

That' why Alvarez saw the light, and, as I said, he ordered the resumption of the talks. Still, two of his underlings are said to be sabotaging the talks.

It seems that they are pushing for those two foreign groups to do the project. Who the groups actually are, nobody can really say. *Basta*, there are other interested groups!

* * *

THAT'S why the underlings of Alvarez, apparently without his knowledge, are still trying to go for a rebid of the contract for the MRT extension.

And we don't even know who those "interested" groups are! I think that if his boys succeed in putting one over Alvarez, the DOTC is taking a big gamble.

Are those mysteriously unknown secret groups—both of them—capable of doing the project? Who knows? I don't think even those two DOTC functionaries know.

Remember, boss, the MRT has a bitter history. The original contract was given to a group, which sat on it for years. They did not have this little thing called money.

On the other hand, we all know that MRTC already got the job done. The MRT was completed on time. Not only that, the system is even running.

Moreover, the MRTC contends that it has a valid contract with the government for the extension project. Let's say the DOTC rebids it. What will happen?

Surely the MRTC will have to go to court. If it doesn't, its creditors will sue it. Nobody gains. The project will be delayed. You know—delaying the gain.

## SHIFT TO NON-BANKING CAREER

# Yuchengco son quits RCBC

By Doris C. Dumlao

YUCHENGCO scion Alfonso "Tito" S. Yuchengco III has stepped down as executive vice chair and CEO of family-owned Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. to "pursue other non-banking business opportunities."

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RCBC spokesperson Cynthia Paras-Santos said Yuchengco had tendered his resignation effective Nov. 30, citing "personal reasons."

Yuchengco likewise resigned his posts at the bank's various subsidiaries.

The resignation, however, is subject to acceptance by the bank's board of directors, which is set to meet this Nov. 26.

Bank officials said Yuchengco has already gone on a leave of absence. While no replacement has been named, RCBC president/COO Valentin Araneta and corporate vice chair Cesar Virata would fill up the void left by Yuchengco.

They said Yuchengco, the youngest son of taipan and newly confirmed Philippine Ambassador to the United States Alfonso Yuchengco, wanted to focus on other business opportunities.

Aside from banking, the Yuchengco group has interests in insurance, education, information technology and infrastructure.

Yuchengco served the bank and other Yuchengco-related companies for more than 20 years. He was elected RCBC vice chair in 1997 and assumed the twin posts of executive vice chair and CEO in July last year, the same time that former Prime Minister Virata was elected corporate vice chair.

In a statement, Yuchengco said his past three years in RCBC "have been the most challenging times of my life." During the period, he said he had introduced new initiatives "with the end view of achieving the vision that senior management, together with our shareholders, had crafted for the new RCBC."

"There have been areas of success," Yuchengco said, but noted that there could be other areas that needed some improvements.

There were speculations that Yuchengco has had some conflict in management style vis-à-vis other members of the management team but bank officials said the resignation was simply because of the young Yuchengco's intentions to focus on other business opportunities.

# Petrochem plant investment expected to double to $1.2B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

KUALA LUMPUR—Philippine National Oil Co. president Thelmo Cunanan yesterday said investments in the $600-million naphtha cracker project in Bataan would double as another plant is planned to be put up after two years from the first facility's operation.

The PNOC chief is representing the Philippines in the 7th Asean Council on Petroleum Conference and Exhibition here.

Cunanan said they would initially put up a plant with a production capacity of 600,000 tons yearly and would build the other plant with the substantial savings from two years of commercial production.

"We expect to have ironed out the kinks by then and we would be able to raise the capacity (of the petrochemical complex) to at least one million tons a year," Cunanan added.

He explained that the decision was made based on a study of the economics of the industry, both locally and regionally.

Asked whether the prospective investors would agree to doubling the investments, he said: "We assume (they) would want to put in additional capital once they have decided to take part in the project."

In earlier interviews, Cunanan said investors from Malaysia, Brunei and Japan have expressed serious interest in the project.

Yesterday, he said the project was still open to as many interested investors although PNOC would have to control at least 34 percent of it.

"It would be a veto minority, which means we would have a say in all major policies," Cunanan said.

He also said that with the additional production capacity, they expected to eventually export the output of the naphtha cracker.

He said Southeast Asia's population of 500 million provided a large market for plastic products, the raw materials for which would be produced by the naphtha cracker.

## DISCLOSURES

**PETRON Corp.** announced the election of Bob Gothong as director of the company to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of Antonio Carpio last August. The company also set ₱1.5-billion funding for its refinery and marketing capital programs.

* * *

**WATERFRONT Philippines Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 10 a.m. at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Only stockholders as of Nov. 6 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**INTERPORT Resources Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 15, 10 a.m. at the Metropolitan Club in Makati City. Only stockholders as of Oct. 11 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 15, 2:30 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City. Only stockholders as of Oct. 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 7, 2 p.m. at the Mahogany Room of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Stockholders as of Nov. 16 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

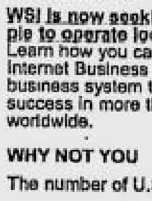
**AJO.Net Holdings Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 3 p.m. at the Metropolitan Club, Makati City. Only stockholders as of Oct. 22 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.** declared cash dividends of P0.50 per share on its Series G, N, P and S 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stock in favor of stockholders as of Nov. 29 and shall be payable on Dec. 28.

* * *

**RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp.** announced the resignation of Alfonso Yuchengco III as executive vice chair and CEO effective Nov. 30, 2001. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*



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Manila

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Thu, Nov 8, at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

Location:
SHANGRI-LA MAKATI, Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200 Tel: 632-813-8888

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

***Join futurist Nigel Mayne, president of WSI*** as he discusses WSI and the future of the Internet in Manila.

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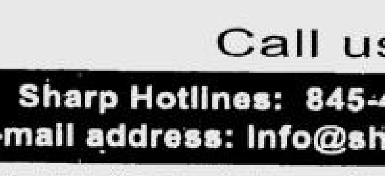

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## Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, November 7, 2001)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 2,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 42 | 44 | 42 | 43.5 | 329,100 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 18 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 725,400 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 6,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 159 | 161 | 155 | 157 | 145,210 |
| Philippine National Bank | 47 | 48 | 47 | 47.5 | 620,500 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 4,000 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICE | | | | | |
| First Abacus Financial | 0.62 | 0.62 | 0.62 | 0.62 | 100,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1325 | 1330 | 1325 | 1330 | 1,110 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1115 | 1120 | 1115 | 1115 | 17,330 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 26 | 26.5 | 26 | 26.5 | 3,600 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 650,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 550 | 550 | 550 | 550 | 3,500 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 30,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 3.2 | 3.45 | 3.2 | 3.45 | 20,000 |
| Piltel | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 70,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 357.5 | 357.5 | 352.5 | 355 | 68,680 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.4 | 0.46 | 0.4 | 0.43 | 3,460,000 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.013 | 0.014 | 26,200,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 22 | 22 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 21,700 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 387,700 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.02 | 1.06 | 1.02 | 1.06 | 5,952,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 10,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 20,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.26 | 1.28 | 2,025,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 18,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 647,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 423,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 11.25 | 11.25 | 11.25 | 11.25 | 188,300 |
| La Tondena Distillers Inc. | 23.25 | 23.75 | 23.25 | 23.75 | 149,100 |
| RFM Corp. | 2.02 | 2.02 | 2 | 2.02 | 795,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 41.5 | 41.5 | 41 | 41.5 | 43,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 49.5 | 49.5 | 49 | 49 | 374,600 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Asia Amalgamated Holdings | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 10,000 |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.36 | 0.39 | 0.33 | 0.39 | 140,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.15 | 4.15 | 3,368,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 1.28 | 1.3 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 810,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 570,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.005 | 5,000,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 30,000 |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 230,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 9,820,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 10,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0875 | 0.0875 | 10,600,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 100,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.63 | 0.63 | 110,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 22 | 22.25 | 22 | 22.25 | 301,100 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 100,000 |
| Guoco Holdings (Phils.) | 0.115 | 0.115 | 0.115 | 0.115 | 150,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 34,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 100,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. A | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 300,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.56 | 0.57 | 560,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.15 | 0.17 | 2,100,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 20,000 |
| Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 50,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 100,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Cen Azucar De Tarlac | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 10,000 |
| Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc. | 4.4 | 5 | 4.4 | 5 | 3,000 |
| Interphil Labs Inc. A | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 50,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 1,700,000 |
| Central Azucar Don Pedro | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 250,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE | | | | | |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 580,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 805,800 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| Omico Corporation Warrant | 0.0008 | 0.0008 | 0.0008 | 0.0008 | 2,000,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants | 0.004 | 0.0042 | 0.004 | 0.0042 | 15,000,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 4.35 | 4.35 | 4.35 | 4.35 | 860,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 4,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.245 | 0.245 | 0.245 | 0.245 | 160,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.195 | 0.195 | 0.19 | 0.195 | 2,050,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 3,268,000 |
| City & Land Developers | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 100,000 |
| Primex Corp. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 10,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 10,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 8,152,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines A | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 5,400,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 440,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 10,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 6,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 60,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 1,800,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0028 | 0.0028 | 0.0028 | 0.0028 | 1,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 2,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 1,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 110,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 200,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 1,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 10,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 1,950,650 | 100,449,535.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 96,745,780 | 134,997,035.00 |
| PRO | 14,714,000 | 50,875,280.00 |
| Mining | 11,910,000 | 181,250.00 |
| OIL | 7,120,000 | 106,500.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS : | 132,440,430 | 286,609,600.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 389.96 | UP 1.52 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,406.43 | DOWN 2.33 |
| PRO | 424.49 | DOWN 0.32 |
| Mining | 929.77 | DOWN 21.40 |
| OIL | 1.16 | DOWN 0.08 |
| All Shares Index | 659.25 | UP 2.17 |
| Composite | 988.79 | UP 0.23 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 97; NO. OF TRADES: 1,622

## CURRENCIES

Nov. 7, 2001

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.117318 | 1.000000 | 51.9660 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.009220 | 0.008252 | 0.4288 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.628715 | 1.457700 | 75.7508 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.143251 | 0.128210 | 6.6626 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.678973 | 0.607681 | 31.5788 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.701657 | 0.627983 | 32.6338 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.614925 | 0.550358 | 28.5999 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.572514 | 0.512400 | 26.6274 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.963867 | 2.652661 | 137.8482 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.297935 | 0.266652 | 13.8568 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.612061 | 0.547795 | 28.4667 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000103 | 0.000092 | 0.0048 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.025029 | 0.022401 | 1.1641 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.304280 | 0.272331 | 14.1520 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000869 | 0.000778 | 0.0404 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.895000 | 46.5096 |
| Germany | Mark | 0.511292 | 0.457606 | 23.7800 |
| France | Franc | 0.152450 | 0.136442 | 7.0903 |
| Netherlands | Guilder | 0.453780 | 0.406133 | 21.1051 |
| Austria | Schilling | 0.072673 | 0.065042 | 3.3800 |
| Belgium | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.022186 | 1.1529 |
| Italy | Lire | 0.000516 | 0.000462 | 0.0240 |
| Finland | Markka | 0.168188 | 0.150528 | 7.8223 |
| Portugal | Escudo | 0.004988 | 0.004464 | 0.2320 |
| Spain | Peseta | 0.006010 | 0.005379 | 0.2795 |
| Luxemburg | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.022186 | 1.1529 |
| Ireland | Punt | 1.269739 | 1.136416 | 59.0550 |

# Fed cuts rates . . .

(From page B1)

to help businesses and consumers by cutting borrowing costs and stimulating economic activity.

But economists questioned whether the Fed move could stimulate economic activity when consumers and businesses are in a retrenching mode, or whether the action is the equivalent of "pushing on a string."

"The critical question now is, will lower interest rates reduce the uncertainty so clearly present in the economy? Unfortunately, the answer to that question is both yes and no," said Mark Vitner of Wachovia Securities.

"Lower interest rates will certainly help shore up corporate and household balance sheets . . . But lower interest rates will do little in the near-term to spur investment in an economy that has so much overcapacity. We also doubt whether lower interest rates will be enough of an inducement spur home sales at a time when unemployment is rising."

Meantime, BSP's Buenaventura said the central bank was studying the possibility of imposing anew a tiering scheme on its overnight borrowing. The measure, which effectively reduces the rates as bank deposits in the BSP's vault increase, was lifted in August.

"We may decide to bring back the tiering to force banks to place their money in longer term treasury bills," the central bank chief said.

# Provisional duty on cement imports slapped

**BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.**

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has agreed to impose a provisional duty on cement imports to buttress the defenses of Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. against rival cement manufacturers overseas.

The trade department said it would impose a provisional duty of P20.60 for every 40-kilogram bag on all cement imports this month—just half of what Philcemcor had been lobbying for since March last year—initially under the Anti-Dumping Law and later under the Safeguard Measures Act.

The tariff was based on the landed cost of imports estimated at P103 per bag.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the provisional tariff would come with a firm commitment by Philcemcor to maintain its retail prices at between P125 and P135 per bag, a substantial cut from its current price of P145 per bag.

Roxas said the trade department found just cause in Philcemcor's petition because of the sharp rise in imports, shrinking market share of local brands, a drastic slowdown in production and a ballooning number of job cuts.

He said the provisional tariff would allow Philcemcor to recover the market share it lost to imported brands and stop further shutdowns in plants to prevent more layoffs in the industry.

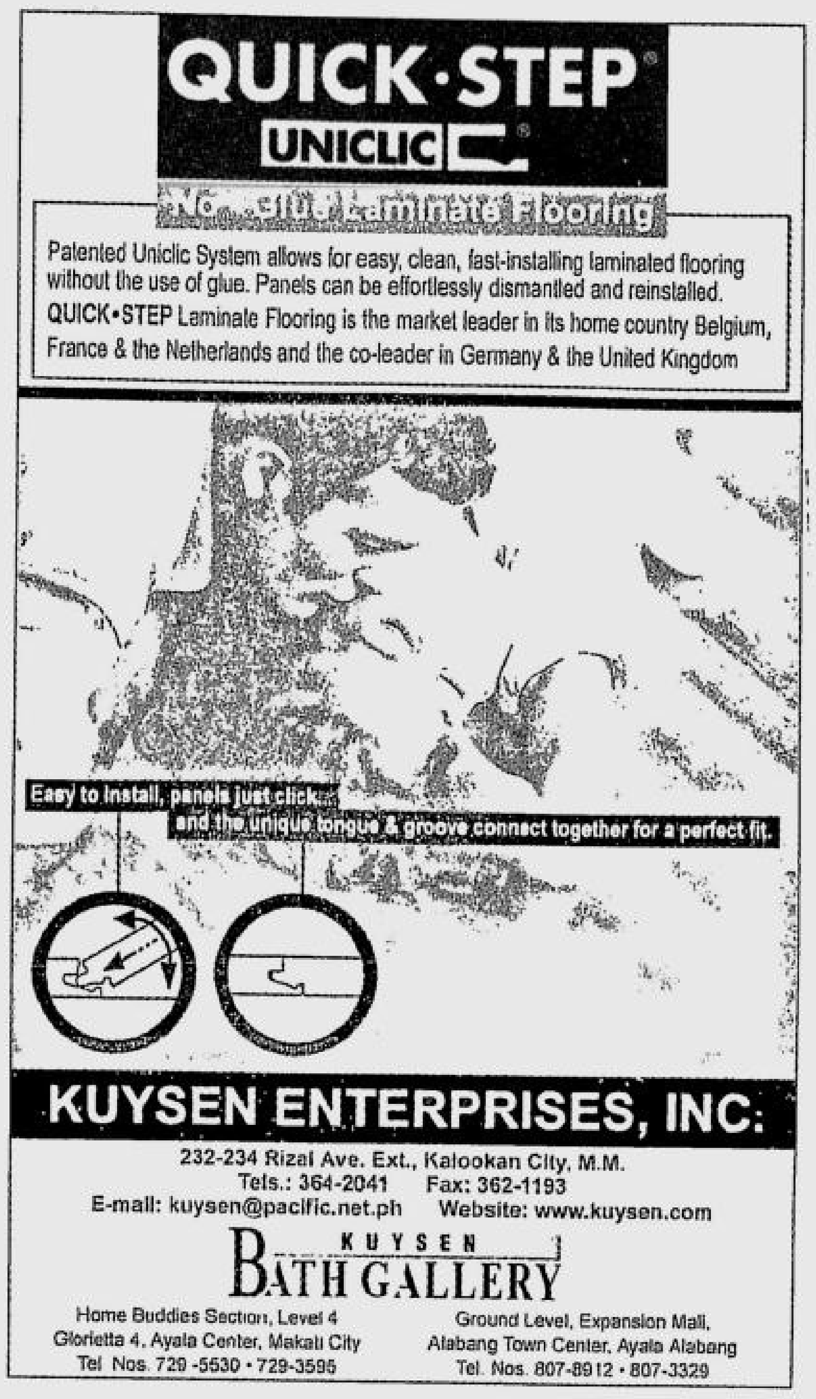
Cement imports from Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Indonesia have reached 1.6 million metric tons in the first seven months of the year, which are already equivalent to shipments made in 2000.

Roxas said imports have already cornered 21 percent of the market, domestic cement plants are operating at 50 percent of their capacity and the number of employees has fallen by 21 percent since last year.

The tariff will take effect for 200 days or until the Tariff Commission has decided on Philcemcor's petition for a 50-percent tariff and quota restrictions on cement imports.

The DTI issued the order after months of review that was temporarily interrupted by a preliminary injunction from the Valenzuela Regional Trial Court that barred trade officials from acting on Philcemcor's petition on grounds that the Safeguards law was unconstitutional.

Last week, Philcemcor successfully obtained a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals overturning the lower court's ruling, paving the way for the DTI to proceed with its review on Philcemcor's petition.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# China casts shadow on Asean business hubs

SINGAPORE—Singapore and Hong Kong are expected to remain the leading business hubs in Asia in the coming five years despite China's lengthening shadow, a survey of expatriate business executives in the region showed.

The Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) polled more than 1,000 foreign executives and asked them to rate their places of residence in terms of their suitability as regional centers for specific industries and business functions.

"The one country that is clearly growing in importance and will take business away from Singapore and Hong Kong is China," said the Hong Kong-based research firm.

"It could well be, however, that the mainland will never become a regional business center but will grow so fast into such a significant economic entity that, like Japan, it will be treated as a distinct market with its own reporting lines to head offices in the West and Australia."

On a scale of zero to 10, with 10 the best grade possible, PERC asked the respondents to rate the countries this year and assess their prospects five years hence.

The survey was taken two months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, but PERC said despite the need for the results to be "revisited," Singapore and Hong Kong would remain key hubs, while rivals would probably not make any headway in the aftermath of the attacks.

For the year 2001, Singapore was voted No. 1 with a grade of 7.7, followed by Hong Kong with 7.63. Japan was third with 5.75, followed by Thailand at 5.0.

The Philippines and Australia tied at fifth place with a score of 4.88, trailed by South Korea at 4.0, Malaysia at 3.69, India at 3.16, Taiwan at 2.97, China at 2.70, Indonesia at 1.54 and Vietnam at 0.38. *AFP*

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# Metrobank sets tier 2 increase

**BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS**

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, is considering raising its "tier 2," or long-term, quasi-equity type debts to boost its capital base while it waits to dispose of its bad loans.

"We are exploring possibilities. We are looking at tier 2 capital just in case there's a need," a senior Metrobank executive told the INQUIRER.

Analysts said Metrobank would likely have to increase its loan-loss provisioning in the fourth quarter, putting pressure on it to strengthen its financial position.

Since the start of the year, the bank has been setting aside over P50 million in loan-loss provisions each month and has targeted a total of P1 billion to P1.5 billion this year.

Metrobank has yet to firm up the amount of tier 2 capital it will tap.

The bank has deferred a plan to dispose of its bad loans, pending the approval of a bill that will grant tax incentives to groups that will create special-purpose vehicles that will support asset disposal programs.

As of the third week of September, Metrobank had a capital base of P47.87 billion.

Metrobank recently reported that its third-quarter earnings amounted to P480 million, 14 percent up from last year's comparative level of P420 million.

The bank, however, posted a 23-percent decline in net interest income to P2.265 billion versus P2.786 billion recorded during the same period last year.

Metrobank's board also recently approved a five-for-one stock split that would reduce the par value of its shares to P20 per share from P100 per share and increase the number of common shares to P2.5 billion from P500 million.

The stock split, to be done through amendment of the bank's articles of incorporation, was designed to improve liquidity or trading of Metrobank shares at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Metrobank executive vice president Alfredo Javellana earlier said the resulting adjustment in the market price of Metrobank shares would hopefully make the shares more interesting to investors.

The stock split is expected to bring down the price of Metrobank shares, making it cheaper for investors to acquire.

Metrobank also disclosed that its board approved an increase in the number of its directors from 11 to 15.

# Mahathir pushes gas network

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday called on the Asean Council on Petroleum (Ascope) to speed up the development of a regionwide network of gas pipelines and power grid interconnections that, he said, were vital for Southeast Asian nations to survive the wave of globalization.

"As we forge ahead into a more uncertain world, the value of (cooperation in trade and regional security) would be of paramount importance. That would enable us to deal with other countries and regions from a position of strength," Mahathir told delegates of the 7th Ascope Conference and Exhibit held here.

Energy chiefs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations recently agreed to sign a memorandum of agreement for the $15-billion trans-Asean gas pipeline project.

The move aimed to further enhance the implementation of the Energy Action Agenda, which was a result of last year's Asean Ministers of Energy Meeting.

The trans-Asean gas pipeline would link all the gas production facilities in the region through a 10,000-kilometer pipeline.

Also, the interconnection of the countries' power grids is already under way.

Mahathir said the infrastructures were needed as Asean countries might not find it easy to play the game of catching up with the developed world since they were intrinsically not competitive.

"We are not yet a union as the European countries are, but we have achieved a degree of cohesion seldom experienced by other regional organizations," Mahathir noted.

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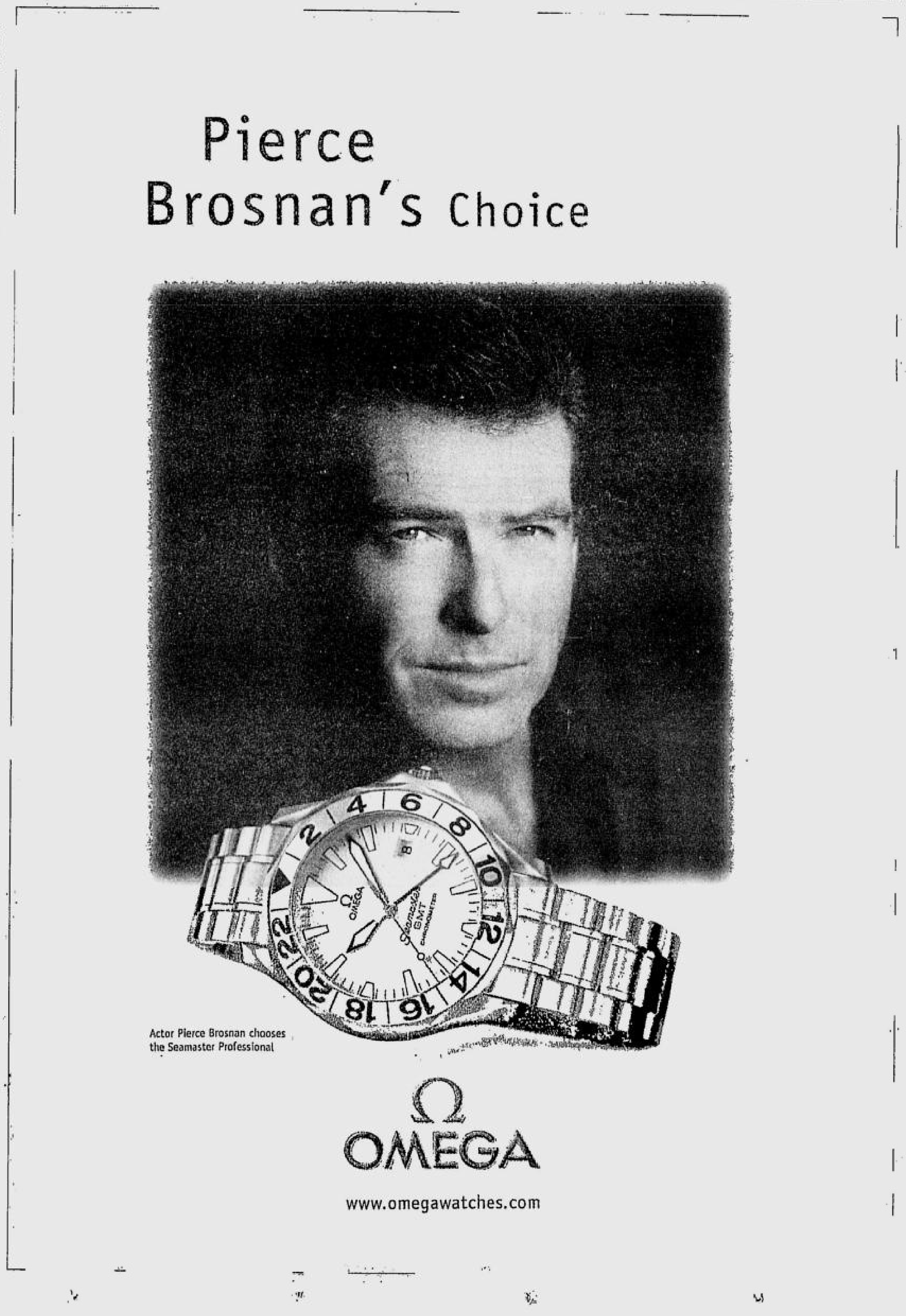
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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Francisco Miranda and Cleofas N. Miranda has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs a per Doc. # 46; Page # II; Book # VI ; Series of 2001 before Notary Public C. Fortunato R. Balasbas of Manila ( PDI - November 8, 15 & 22 ' 2001 )

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DR. EDGARDO L. AVILA of the Municipality of Paniqui, Province of Tarlac, consisting of real and personal properties, was extrajudicially settled and distributed among his heirs by means of a public document executed on the 17th day of October, 2001 and ratified before Atty. Reynante V. Hilario, Notary Public in and for the Province of Tarlac, as per Doc 1256, Page Number 252, Book Number 6 Series of 2001 of this Notarial Register. (PDI-Nov. 1,8,&15 2001)

### NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the ff. certificates of stock issued by **Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc.** in the name of **Victorina Veloso**, cert. of Stock Nos. 27, 53, 74, 92, 112, 126, 142, 154, 170, 186, 209, 223, 236 and 249 representing a total of 3,368 shares have been lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 8, 15 & 22, 2001)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION
Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel: 372-31-88 Fax: 373-20-94

### INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION (NTA), through its Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at its Candon, Ilocos Sur Branch Office invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of farm inputs (pesticides) under its Integrated Farming and Other Income Generating Activities Project Tobacco Component for CY 2001-2002.

Listed hereunder are the following items to be bidded:

| Particular | Unit | Quantity |
|---|---|---|
| Lannate | 425 grams | 1,306 packs |
| Matador | 1000 ML | 369 bottles |
| Matador | 500 ML | 471 bottles |

The pre-qualification requirements are available for issuance to interested parties on **09 November 2001** at the NTA Candon, Ilocos Sur Branch Office. The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on or before the close of office hours on **16 November 2001**.

Pre-qualified bidders shall be notified, thru formal letters. The Instructions to Bidders and the Bid Documents will be issued only to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php1,000.00).

A Pre-bidding conference will be held on **23 November 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the NTA Candon, Ilocos Sur Branch Office. The Public Bidding will be held on **28 November 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

The NTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part/s thereof, without offering any reason, waive any defect/s contained in any of the bid/s submitted and/or accept the offer most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO T. PAGTULINGAN**
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)

(PDI--Nov. 8, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Health
JOSE R. REYES MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
Manila

### INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS

The Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center invites sealed bid for the delivery of foodstuffs for the period JANUARY - APRIL 2002.

Bid documents shall be released from November 9-15, 2001 at the Dietary Department, Ground floor, JRRMMC, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held on November 22, 2001 at the Dietary Department, Ground floor, JRRMMC, 10:00 AM.

Sealed bids shall be submitted at the Dietary Department Ground floor, JRRMMC, not later than 10:00 a.m., November 29, 2001, after which time the same shall be publicly opened.

JRRMMC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR DEFECT AND ACCEPT ANY BID WHICH IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **MA. ALICIA M. LIM, M.D.**
*Medical Center Chief II*

(PDI--Nov. 8 & 9, 2001)

## INQUIRER TRiViA

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

### Bright light

*Q.* How did the *klieg light* get its name?

*A.* After German-born brothers John and Anton Kliegl, who migrated to the United States in 1897 and pioneered the development of lighting equipment and scenic effects for the stage and early Hollywood motion pictures. The bright incandescent light they inveted was first called the *Kliegl light*, which proved too difficult to pronounce and in time shortened to just *klieg light*.

***Not-So-Famous First.*** On October 30, 1925 a 15-year-old office boy named William Taynton became the first person to be captured on television when Scottish inventor John Logie Baird transmitted the world's first light-and-shade TV images in his workshop in London. With a crude contraption pieced together with cardboard, darning needles, used electric motors, piano wire, glue, string, wax and lenses, Baird first tuned in the silhouette of a dummy's head. Anxious to capture a live performer, he rushed downstairs and returned with Taynton. Frightened by the bright lights, the lad would sit still before the transmitter only if Baird promised a few shillings for his patience.

**Classified Odd.** Michael Springer of London is in the habit of being in the right place at the right time. In 1980 and 1989 he gave first aid to victims of a shooting. In 1993 he saved the life of a man who was stabbed. Last summer, he walked in a street where he spotted a 17-month-old baby sitting in the window ledge on the fourth story of a builidng. The inevitable happened. The toddler fell and who else but Michael was there to catch the child.

**WORD WATCH**

**Tiyempo** : from the Spanish *tiempo*, 'time.'

PDI -- November 8, 2001

# INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid the:

## Preparation and Production Of an Annual Report

The above job will include design and layout, typesetting, photography including all photographic materials and processing, color separation, printing and binding, and related services. The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to prequalify:

1. Proof that the offeror has at least five (5) years experience in the design and layout, photography and production/printing of Annual Reports
2. Track record in the production of Annual Reports for the top 500 corporations in the Philippines
3. Written conformity to the following conditions:
    - Background check specially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank
    - Visit to check on equipment and other facilities
    - A refundable deposit of Manager's Check of P50,000.00 shall be submitted when required
4. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years (2000-2001)
5. Copy of Income Tax Return for the last 2 years (2000-2001)
6. Proof of registration of business name
7. List of references of previous clients

DBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the Bank is final and binding.

Please address formal offer to The Chairman, Annual Report Committee, P.O. Box 1996, Makati Central Post Office 1200, Makati City. The Committee shall accept all submissions postmarked not later than **November 22, 2001.**

(PDI - Nov. 8 & 9, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
CITY OF BAYAWAN
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

# INVITATION TO BID

The City of Bayawan, Negros Oriental thru its Awards Committee invites interested suppliers/bidders to supply and deliver the following items:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 10 | units | Reconditioned Japan, Surplus 10-Wheeler Dumptrucks powered by 330 HP diesel Engine Double differential left hand drive, with manual (operation, maintenance, parts catalog) brand new tires and batteries |
| 2. | 2 | units | Reconditioned Japan Surplus, Crawler Bulldozer, powered by diesel engine 185 HP with Brand New track pad, links, sprocket, idlers cutting edges, end bits, batteries and manuals (operation, maintenance and parts catalog). |
| 3. | 2 | units | Reconditioned Japan Surplus Pay Loader, powered by 240 HP diesel engine with Brand New Tires, batteries, bucket tooth and manuals (operation, maintenance and parts catalog). |
| 4. | 2 | units | Reconditioned Japan Surplus Road Grader, Powered by 150 HP diesel engine with brand new tires, batteries cutting edges, end bits and manuals (operation, maintenance and parts catalog). |
| 5. | 2 | units | Reconditioned Japan Surplus Single Drum Vibratory Roller, ten (10) tons operating weight, Powered by 160 HP Diesel Engine and Equipped with 7" Width roller, with manuals (operation maintenance and parts catalog), Brand new tires and batteries. |
| 6. | 2 | units | Reconditioned Japan Surplus Hydraulic Excavator, Crawler type, powered by 125 HP Diesel Engine and Equipped w/ 0.8 cu.m. Bucket, Hydraulic Breaker w/ Brand New Batteries, Track Links Pads, and Manuals (operation, maitenance and parts catalog). |
| 7. | 1 | unit | Reconditioned Japan Surplus Tractor Head, Powered by 395 HP diesel engine, Double differential, left hand drive w/ brand new tires, batteries. |
| 8. | 1 | unit | Reconditioned Japan Surplus Low Bed Trailer, 25T Loading Capacity, w/ Air Brakes and Brand New Tires |

A prequalification of all interested bidders will be conducted on November 28 at 2:00 p.m. at SP Session Hall, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental.

The following are the pre-qualification documents:

1. Certificate of Registration, (Dept. of Trade & Industry)
2. Business Permit, (Main Office)
3. Mayor's Permit, (Bayawan City)
4. VAT/Non-Vat Registration Certificate
5. Authorization of Representative
6. Certification as to Direct Importer, (Bureau of Custom)

**All photocopies to be submitted must be duly authenticated by the issuing office.**

Sealed bids will be accepted on November 29, 2001 not later than 10:30 in the morning by the Awards Committee at SP Session Hall, at which time and place said bids/ proposal will be opened. Bid forms are available at Supply Section, Office of the City Mayor of LGU-Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. A 5% cash bond is required before your bid will be considered.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids should circumstances so warrants.

(Sgd.) GERMAN P. SARAÑA, JR.
*City Mayor*

(PDI--Nov. 8 & 18, 2001)

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**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY**
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0293 / 845-0832

# INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

| IT Requirements | Qty. | Bid Deadline |
|---|---|---|
| CPU Upgrades | 25 units | November 27, 2001 |
| Integrated Smart Array Controller<br>Module Memory for CISCO<br>Vertical Mount Master Switch<br>Digital Multimeter<br>Tone Generator and Probe<br>LAN Tester with Remote Unit | 2 units<br>2 units<br>1 unit<br>1 unit<br>1 unit<br>1 unit | November 27, 2001 |
| Computer / Software Books | 14 pcs | November 27, 2001 |

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC-Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before **November 16, 2001.** Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
*Senior Vice President*
*Legal, Admin. and Estate*
*Management Services*

(PDI -- Nov. 8 & 9, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Parañaque

# INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Parañaque is inviting interested parties / accredited suppliers to participate and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

**"PAMASKONG HANDOG PARA SA MAHIRAP PROJECT"**

2800 Box of Best Food Mayo Magic 220ml/24
2083 Box of Salad Macaroni (Royal) 400g/35
1845 Box of Spaghetti Noodles (Royal) 450g/35
2800 Box of Fruit Cocktail (Del Monte) 850g/24
1458 Box of Cheese (Quezo) 200g/48
2800 Box of Luncheon Meat (Purefoods) 350g/24
2400 Box of Refill Nescafe (Nescafe) 100g/30
1250 Box of Powdered filled milk (Alaska) 180g/60
1548 Sacks of White Sugar (50kls)
8000 Sacks Sinandoming Rice (50 kls/sack)

All sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards on or before 10:00 A.M. and then publicly opened at the City of Conference Room at exactly 2:00 P.M. on **November 23, 2001.**

Interested parties/accredited suppliers may secure the necessary bid documents and information from the Office of the City Mayor.

The City Government of Parañaque reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect contained therein and accept the lowest complying and reasonable bid that is most advantageous to the City Government.

(Sgd.) JOEY P. MARQUEZ
*City Mayor*

(PDI--Nov. 6, 8 & 10, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
Committee on Awards
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Committee on Awards of the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all interested suppliers of surplus heavy equipment to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the following:

1. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Excavator (Backhoe)
2. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Vibratory Roller
3. Ten (10) Units Japan-Surplus, reconditioned CBU Ten-Wheeler Dump Trucks
4. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Wheel Loader
5. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Motor Grader
6. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned 4x4 Service Vehicle

All bidders must be pre-qualified not later than **November 19, 2001.** The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Committee on Awards Secretariat (Provincial General Services Office).

Sealed bids will be accepted on or before **November 23, 2001** not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at the Session Hall, Capitol Building, at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 19, 2001** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the same venue.

All equipment/vehicles offered in the bidding are subject to inspection, evaluation and testing before any award is made.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) GEORGE P. ARNAIZ
*Governor of Negros Oriental*

(PDI -- Nov. 1 & 8, 2001)

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
**NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

22 October 2001

# INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contract listed as follow:

| Bid Package | Scope of Works | Project Cost (Million) | PCAB Category | IAC Classification |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capitol Homes (Kabugwason) Resettlement Project, Brgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City | Road, drainage sewerage, hand pumps and survey works | P16.00 | A | Medium "B" for Roads |

A. Eligibility Statement Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Staff/Secretariat, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Contract Agreement and Certificate of Completion/Acceptance of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 shall be received only from authorized representatives

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.

D. Deadline for submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on November 9, 2001. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 13, 2001, 10:00 AM at the Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI -- Oct. 25, 30 & Nov. 8, 2001)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OBITUARIES

## FELIPA A. BAGSIT

**of Batangas City**

*passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 6, 2001.*

Her remains lie in state at Eternal Homes Batangas City. Prayers will be appreciated.

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*Other obituaries on page* **B8**

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## PROBIDAD "BIDY" MARTIREZ HERRERA

*Born May 30, 1923*
*Died November 6, 2001*

Has joined her loving husband **Fred** (†); children **Anita** (†) and **Concepcion** (†) in God's Kingdom. Her bereaved family **Freddy** and **Baby Goyena, Albert, Tess** and **Stephen Granger**; in-laws, Kumadre **Fe Goyena, Tom** and **Sheila Granger**; grandchildren **Macky** and **Krissa Herrera** and **Jared Granger**; her brothers, sisters and in-laws **Msgr. Ciceron Martirez** (†), **Pinding** (†) and **Pepito** (†) **Magalit, Napoleon** and **Patring Martirez, Augusto** and **Fanny Martirez, Grace** (†), **Nora** and **Mark** (†) **Villamil, Gloria** and **Recio** (†) **Garcia, Emmanuel** and **Luz Martirez**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque will be on Sunday, November 11, 2001 following the 9 a.m. Mass at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio.

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*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

***For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.***

**ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
**ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS**
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
**AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES**
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (075) 522-3451, 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
**CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.**
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
**CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.**
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
**COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.**
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
**COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.**
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
**DAYAO FUNERAL HOME**
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
**DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES**
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
**DON BOSCO CHAPELS**
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
**DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES**
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064

**FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME**
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
**FUNERARIA PANGILINAN**
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
**F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES**
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
**FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE**
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
**FUNERARIA TUASON**
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
**GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK**
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
**HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS**
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
**LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN**
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
**LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.**
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795
**LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.**
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City; Tels. 749-3806 to 11
**LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.**
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
**LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS**
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tel. 895-1011 to 19

**MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS**
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
**MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783; (0919) 348-7131
**NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES**
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
**ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.**
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
**RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES**
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
**SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH**
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
**ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH**
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
**ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
**ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES**
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9786/87
**VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES**
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
**WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES**
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila
Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438, 400-5394

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:** ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS [illegible]

# Sky-Home, Star TV resume talks over fees

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER a costly and bitter advertising war, Sky Vision Corp. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Corp. are again negotiating with content provider Star TV Asia.

In an interview, Sky managing director Carlos Tria Jr. said Sky and Home, which together account for 60 percent of the local cable TV market, and Star TV had made some progress.

But he insisted that Star TV, which carries popular channels like ESPN Sports and Star Movies, was still asking for steep rates from Sky and Home.

"Some discussions with Star TV are ongoing. There's some progress. But whether this is big enough for us to get Star TV again, we can't tell," Tria told the Inquirer.

He said Sky and Home were in no rush to forge a deal with Star TV. He said the two parties were not working on a specific timetable.

"They've already removed their programs from our system. That's the ultimate step that they can do. Since they've already cut us off, there's no more time pressure to come to an agreement," Tria said.

Sky and Home are finishing a business plan to combine their facilities under a new company, "Beyond Cable," set to be operational in January.

Board members of Sky and Home sat down on Oct. 24 to discuss this plan, including debt repayment schedules and a possible credit restructuring plan.

Sky and Home have a combined debt of over P3.5 billion.

Tria said the loss of Star TV's program was proving to be a gain for Sky and Home.

"If we will restructure our debts, we have to show our creditors that the business will improve and that we can pay off our debts. Part of the plan is for us to have a more manageable programming cost," he said.

Programming costs should only account for 30 percent of a cable operator's subscription rates, he said.

Sky's programming costs currently stand at 30 percent of subscription, he said, while Home's ratio is at 70 percent.

Star TV pulled the plug on the country's top two cable television providers over unpaid fees last month.

The withdrawal of the service deprived Sky and Home subscribers of nine channels.

Star regional director Charles Pollard said in a statement that supply was "indefinitely suspended" over the cable systems' "non-payment of millions of dollars of fees" to Star.

"Some of these debts date back to last year," he said. "We hope that the matter will be resolved quickly and the normal service will be resumed."

Star TV is News Corp.'s Asian satellite television and multimedia arm.

Sky and Home charged in a joint statement that Star was "trying to bully us into buying a bundle of six channels on a 'take-all-or-nothing' basis,' "when the two only wanted Star Sports, Star Movies and ESPN.

The two cable providers which joined operations earlier this year, said they could not afford the new contract terms worth $10 million, up from $5.5 million dollars for five channels.

Star TV said earlier it was still open to negotiations with Sky, Home and, another cable company, Pilipino Cable Corp., despite its decision to pull out its popular channels from these cable operators' list of programs.

"Our doors are still open," Star vice president for distribution David Ilagan said, but he stressed that these cable TV operators would have to show "good faith."

"We've been negotiating with Home and Sky for close to a year now, and we've gotten nowhere," Ilagan said.

# GDP growth to exceed 2.8%, says chief economist

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday he expected gross domestic product growth in the third quarter to exceed initial forecasts of 2.8 percent.

"Earlier, we projected a 2.8-percent (GDP) growth in the third quarter, but it may grow higher than 2.8 percent," Canlas told reporters on the sidelines of a population forum.

GDP measures the country's total output of goods and services.

Canlas said he did expect the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the Philippines' largest trading partner, to be reflected in the third quarter.

He said, however, that the attacks would have little effect on third-quarter indicators and would even have no impact on figures for the fourth quarter.

"The risks from the terrorist attacks will be felt in 2002," he said. "There's a certain inertia in production and consumption."

The Philippines has forecast a GDP growth of 3.3 percent for the whole of this year against actual growth of 4 percent in 2000. In the year's second quarter, GDP grew by 3.3 percent year-on-year, higher than market expectations, helped by the farm sector.

"Normally, the third quarter is weaker compared to the other quarters because it's before the spending season of the fourth quarter," Canlas said.

As such, he said the government was maintaining a 3.3-percent GDP target for the full year.

Canlas said the projection that GDP growth would exceed 2.8 percent in the third quarter was supported by recent indicators on labor force, consumption of electricity and manufacturing volume.

He said the July labor force survey showed an increase in employment by two million, which should have some positive impact on domestic productivity.

"There was also some increase in the sale of Meralco (Manila Electric Co.) to commercial establishments and households," he said, adding that an increase in demand for electricity was usually an indicator of a more robust economic activity.

Canlas also noted that there had been some expansion in the volume of production by key industries, which should likewise help shore up national income.

Stockpiling of inventories for the Christmas season allowed key manufacturing industries in the Philippines to rebound from a four-month slump, posting a modest output growth of 2:2 percent in August from the 4.9-percent contraction in July despite the continuing global slowdown.

# Ayala water firm hikes borrowings

MANILA Water Co. Inc. has said it will raise its borrowings by as much as 40 percent to fund its capital expenditures next year.

Company president Antonino Aquino said in an interview last week that Manila Water would borrow an additional $15 million to $20 million because of the higher-than-expected cost of maintaining its facilities and putting up new pipelines.

Manila Water earlier earmarked some $50 million to fund its capital expenditures next year.

Aquino said Manila Water was negotiating with creditors here and abroad to raise the money it would need next year.

The company is hoping to close a deal in the third or fourth week of the month, he said. Aquino expressed optimism that the recent increase in its rates had improved Manila Water's credit standing.

He reported that the company's capital spending so far had significantly brought down its losses from 63 percent in 1997 to 47 percent as of June this year.

"The reduction in our losses translated to a steady cash flow base for Manila Water," he said. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

# PLDT says net income at ₱5B without Piltel's ₱20-B loss

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said it could have posted a P5-billion net income without the P19.6 billion in losses of its affiliate, Pilipino Telephone Corp., in the first nine months of the year.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said PLDT's P2.4-billion profit, a 369-percent surge from the same period last year, should have been P5 billion had it not been for Piltel's losses.

"The first six months of Piltel's losses were still consolidated in PLDT's accounts, so that the losses you're seeing of Piltel were reflected in PLDT's books in the first six months. In addition, moving forward from July to September, the losses of Piltel were not equity countered in PLDT's books," Pangilinan said.

He said PLDT had made booked provisions against its investment account in Piltel at the rate of P100 million a month.

"The impact on PLDT's books is a loss on that investment account of P300 million for the third quarter, and that the provision of P100 million per month will as well be made for the fourth quarter this year. So the loss of that investment account for the second half would be P600 million that will eat into the second-half profits of the group," Pangilinan said.

As of end-June, PLDT's investment account in Piltel was about P1.6 billion. Also, since June 30, PLDT's investment in Piltel common shares had been reduced to zero, but PLDT continued to hold investments in Piltel preferred shares.

Bulk of its losses—around P14.8 billion—came from extraordinary charges as a result of the write-down of its analog/CDMA (code division multiple access) assets, as well as expenses related to its restructuring program.

It posted a P4.8-billion loss before extraordinary charges, higher than last year's P4.1-billion figure.

But it showed a 111-percent growth in subscriber numbers, from 604,895 subscribers as of end-September 2000 to over 1.2 million subscribers for the same period this year.

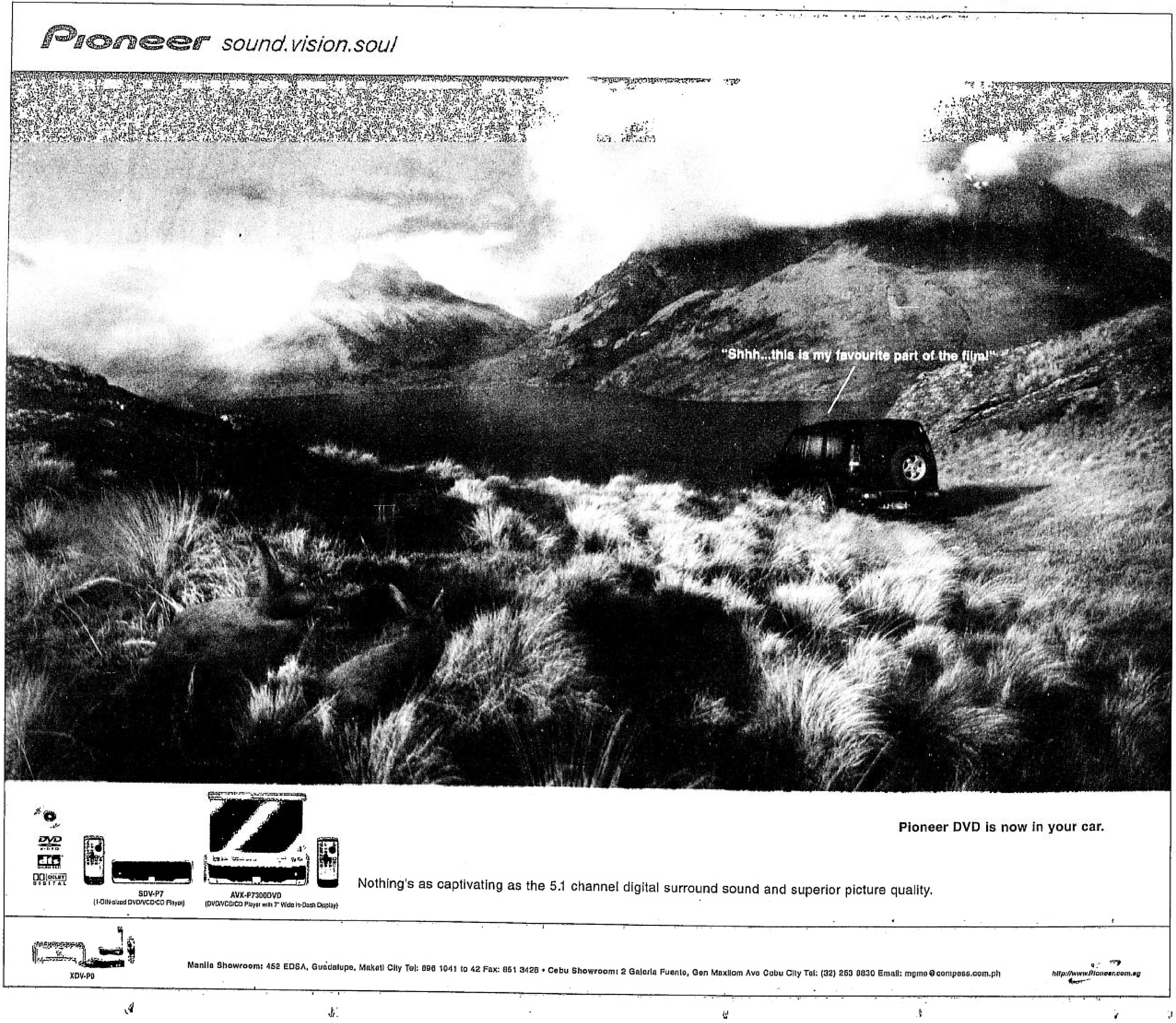
Its revenues also increased by 9 percent to P2.4 billion from P2.2 billion last year. Its Talk 'N Text line accounted for 44 percent of its revenues.

Piltel currently has more GSM (global system for mobile communications) than analog subscribers. Piltel's core business used to be in analog, but with the text messaging boom, its main business had become GSM.

Pangilinan said he expected Piltel to be Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) positive by the first quarter of next year.

He also said he was confident that the sale of a minority stake in PLDT's wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. could fetch the group at least $300 million to $400 million. This could help them pay off some of PLDT's maturing obligations in the next three years.

*Abigail L. Ho*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| XTO M/T Special Edition | 759,000 | 127,800 | 30,474 | 21,834 | 379,500 | 12,809 | 9,317 |
| XTO A/T | 773,000 | 106,660 | 31,036 | 22,237 | 386,500 | 12,222 | 8,891 |
| XTO M/T | 733,000 | 108,600 | 29,430 | 21,086 | 366,500 | 11,853 | 8,621 |
| XT M/T | 670,000 | 114,000 | 26,901 | 19,274 | 335,000 | 11,349 | 8,255 |

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The Officers and Employees of

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

announce with deep sorrow the demise of

## ATTY. JOSE V. ADRIANO

Retired Vice President & former Corporate Secretary

Husband to Annie; father to Rheena & Jorge Consunji, Stella & Joseph Sacramento, Dicky & Tess, Sylvia & Ted Haresco, Emil, Annette & Enrique+ Lim and Liza & Jojo Aquino; grandfather to Maoui, David, Rieanne & Margaret Consunji, Karen Mendieta, Derick, Cathy & Brandon, Jose & Anna Haresco, Elise, Elaine & Erica Lim and Lianza & Kyle Aquino and brother to Dids & Letty, Be+ & Pacita+, Ameling & Ronnie+ Daez and Marietta & Marquitos Roces.

He passed away in the Grace of Our Lord
on November 1, 2001
and was interred last November 4, 2001
at Santuario de San Antonio.

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The Officers and Employees of

**La Tondeña**
DISTILLERS, INC.

announce with deep sorrow the demise of

## ATTY. JOSE V. ADRIANO

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and was interred last November 4, 2001
at Santuario de San Antonio.

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*"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*
*John 14:6*

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## *IN LOVING MEMORY*

on the **4th Death Anniversary**
of our dearest **FATHER**

## MAYOR VICTOR R. MIRANDA

*who joined our Lord on November 8, 1997.*

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on
Thursday, November 8, 2001 at 5:30 p.m.
at Bacoor Memorial, Bacoor, Cavite.

The family requests your prayers for the eternal
repose of his soul.

**Rosette, Veng, Grace** and **Teng**

*"And surely I will be with you always."*
*Matthew 28:20*

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*"Whoever finds his life will lose it,*
*and whoever loses his for my sake will find it."*
*Matthew 10:39*

*Our Dearly Beloved*

## DOÑA AGRIPINA "TIA PINANG" TRAJANO CUSTODIO

MATRIARCH & FOUNDER OF SORIANO TRAJANO PHARMACY
BURGOS AVE., CABANATUAN CITY, NUEVA ECIJA
JUNE 24, 1913 -- NOVEMBER 06, 2001

*Peacefully joined her Creator after a full life of 88 years.*

Her bereaved children **LEDO** and **MARITA**, **DANNY** and **GLORIA**, **BING**, **DIDI**, **STEVE** (†) and **ROSALIE**; grandchildren **MICHAEL** and **CHE-CHE**, **JING-JING**, **ANNALIE**, **HANNAH**, **JIN**, **ABIGAIL** and **JUNNIE**, **FORTUNE**, **GENIA**, **VICTOR JOSEPH**, **HANNAH VICTORIA**, **MIKO**, **DRINA**, **NIKI**, **ALEXA**, **PAMELA** and **ANDRES**, **EMMALINE** and **DENNIS**; **ALVIN** and **DINA**, **CARMINA**, **ERROL**, **PIA** and **OLIVER**; and great grandchildren **KERSTIN JOY**, **ANDRÉ**, **ADRIAN**, **CAMILLE**, **KEVIN**, **CAITLIN**, **JONEL**, **MONICA**, **TRISTAN**, **NIGEL**, **ASHLEY** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 1032 Del Pilar St., Cabanatuan City, N.E.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 10, 2001, 10:00 a.m. after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Nicholas De Tolentine Cathedral, Cabanatuan City, N.E.

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*"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."*

*2 Cor. 5:4-5*

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The Board of Trustees, staff and members of **HARIBON FOUNDATION** condoles with the family and friends of **Maximo "Junie" T. Kalaw, Jr.** who joined his Creator on November 2, 2001.

**HARIBON FOUNDATION** invites family and friends to a Memorial Service in honor of its past President,

## MAXIMO "Junie" T. KALAW, Jr.

At the Ateneo College Chapel at 5:30 p.m.
on Friday, 9 November 2001.

Instead of flowers, may we enjoin you to support Junie's campaign to protect our Inang Kalikasan and support for sustainable development.

---

## ROSALINA ("Ising") MANESE vda. de DIZON

*January 2, 1919 — November 4, 2001*
**OCDS Most Holy Trinity Chapter**

Her bereaved children **Verna** and **Efren Pamintuan**, **Linda** and **Leo Amio** ; **Sylvia** (†) and **Mar Cunanan**, **Don** and **Susan**, **Tessie** and **Alfred Saplala**, **Ben Jr.** (†), **Noel** and **Nelfie**, **Melda** and **Orling Fajardo**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, only sister **Chay**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Barangay Poblacion, Arayat, Pampanga.

Interment will be on November 13, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine Parish Church, Arayat, Pampanga.

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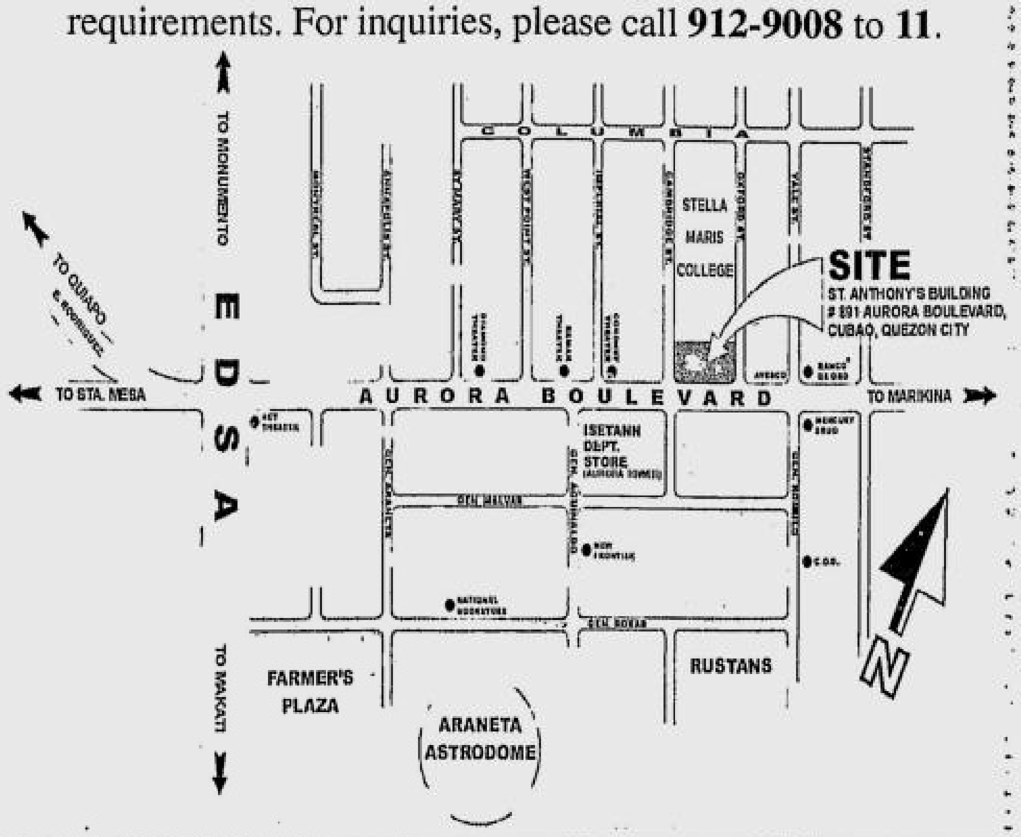


# People, Events & Products

**Aries B. Espinosa**, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

## AMA Bank bares P400-M loan programs

AMA Bank, with branches nationwide, announced the infusion of additional capital to jumpstart its multi-million financial and loan programs.

Alex Soliman, AMA Bank executive vice president, said the new capital will enable AMA Bank to increase its loan programs by at least three times from its present level of transactions.

AMA Bank recently launched with its affiliate school, AMA Computer University, the first ever "study now pay later plan". The P400-million program will allow students to take up a full college course and amortize payments for as long as 10 years.

"In effect, the student will be able to graduate at small amounts being paid in the course of his residency at AMA Computer University and the balance will be payable after graduation when the student will already be at work," said Soliman.

The bank has also been active in their "One Day Salary Loan Release", whereby loan applicants from qualified companies receive the proceeds in the same day that they applied. The bank's information technology infrastructure has made same day loan processing possible.

Soliman said that since most of the purposes of the salary loans are emergency in nature, the same day release of the loan have made cash available to employees just at the time that they are in need.

The bank will also launch a micro finance loan program similar to the very successful Grameenbank in Bangladesh. This program, which is in line with the thrust of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in alleviating poverty, will extend loans to cluster or group undertakings.

Soliman emphasized that the bank strongly believes that small and medium-size industries can very well serve as the backbone of the economy. The development of more entrepreneurs through micro finance will certainly have an effect in alleviating the unemployment problem.

Recently, the bank has been very active in car financing by extending very low interest rates.

**SHOE TRADERS MEET**

Huang Cheng Peng, secretary general of Taipei County Shoes Chamber of Commerce (second from left) pays a courtesy call to Henry Sy (center), chair of the SM group of companies. Also shown are (from left) Valentin Khoe of the Federation of Fil-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Roger Py of Florsheim Kids and director general of the Philippine Footwear Federation Inc. and William Castro, CEO of Gibi Shoes and president of Marikina Fil-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## Dental Traders to hold mid-year trade exhibit

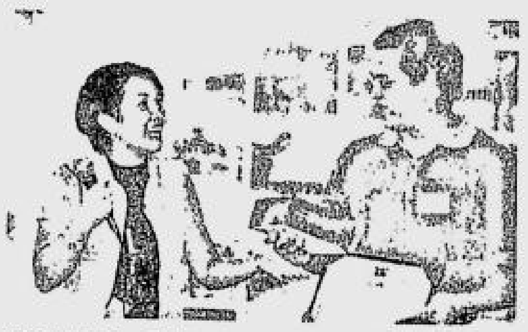
THE NATIONAL Association of Dental Traders Inc. (Nadti), the country's biggest group of dental suppliers, will hold its Second Mid-Year Dental Trade Exhibition at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, Nov. 7 to 9.

According to Nadti president Nestor S. Publico, the three-day exhibit is a one-stop shop for dentists and others in the dental profession seeking the latest trends, equipment and technology. "This event will bring together in one big gathering the dental practitioners, suppliers, corporate exhibitors, academicians, and resource persons to help advance the dental industry and profession in the country," Publico said.

One highlight of the trade show is the conduct of a series of dental business management lectures aimed at helping dental practitioners meet the challenges of the profession in the new millennium. Inputs include the following topics: Determination of professional fees by Dr. Ranny Reyes; Managing your business – creating wealth by building assets by Marlo Sanchez; Acupuncture: Alternative profession for the dentist by Dr. Federico Nadela Jr., Clinic interior design by Tina Periquet; Dental economics by Dr. Steve Mark Gan; Simplified troubleshooting of dental equipment by Dr. Manoucher Khaledi; 21st century e-procurement solutions for dental practice by Thomas Price; Financial problems in the clinic by Dennis Lim, and Equipment procurement and maintenance by engineer Sid dela Cruz.

Meanwhile, corporate exhibitors include Satelec Pierre Rolland, Alphadent, 3M Philippines-Dentco, Oral B, Intercast, Pandora, Voco, Dentsply, DSC Inc.-Dental System, Interdent Lab, AVM Ortho, Zuellig Dental Division, New Citizen, Dragon Traders, Pierrot-Golden Peak, SECC, J Chenny, Ahescor, Fildent, SDI, COTS, Infomed, Dental Asia, ECR, Perfect Team, CL Medical, Fortress, First Health, PROS-Apac, Budget Dental, Dentalink, Jagas, Yours Dental, Equipdent, JRLT and Jeandra which will display the latest state-of-the-art dental equipment and technology.

Early birds who will register on or before Oct. 28 will pay only P350, while onsite registrants will pay P500. Registrants will have the chance to win major prizes such as trips for two to Hong Kong, Bangkok and Boracay, with thousands worth of dental materials to be won in the daily raffles. For details, contact Nadti president Nestor Publico at 811-2918 or Nadti assistant secretary Dr. Alice Rodriguez at 727-7752.



**TOMICA COLLECTORS' MEETING**

Alvin Makalinao (right), immediate past president of the Tomica Collector's Club, receives a certificate of appreciation and a cake in a Tomica model from Marvie Rances-Samala, marketing and advertising/promo manager of Ban Kee Trading Inc., during the second quarter assembly of the organization at Racks on Tomas Morato Street, Quezon City. The affair, which was attended by more than 1,500 regular club members, was highlighted by the induction of the new set of officers and the presentation of the club's program and projects for 2001-2002. The meeting was hosted and sponsored by Rack's restaurants, in cooperation with Art Cakes. WG&A Superferry, Kids@Work, Multicenter, Honda Cars-Pasig, Don Henricos, Nestle Chocolait, Nestea Iced Tea and Century Gifts.

## Local advertising agency acclaimed in Asia and Europe

CAMPAIGN Brief Asia, the most influential creative advertising trade magazine in the region, ranked BBDO/Guerrero Ortega among the top 20 hottest agencies in Southeast Asia.

The rankings were based on creative performance across the world's top award shows measured annually by Campaign Brief Asia.

BBDO/Guerrero Ortega also topped the list of the country's hottest agencies with more than twice the points garnered by its closest competitor.

David Ferrer and Dino Ocampo, both creative directors from BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, were likewise cited as the highest ranked Filipino creatives in the region.

The agency also picked up 10 shortlisted entries at the worldwide industry's premiere event – the 2001 Cannes International Advertising Festival.

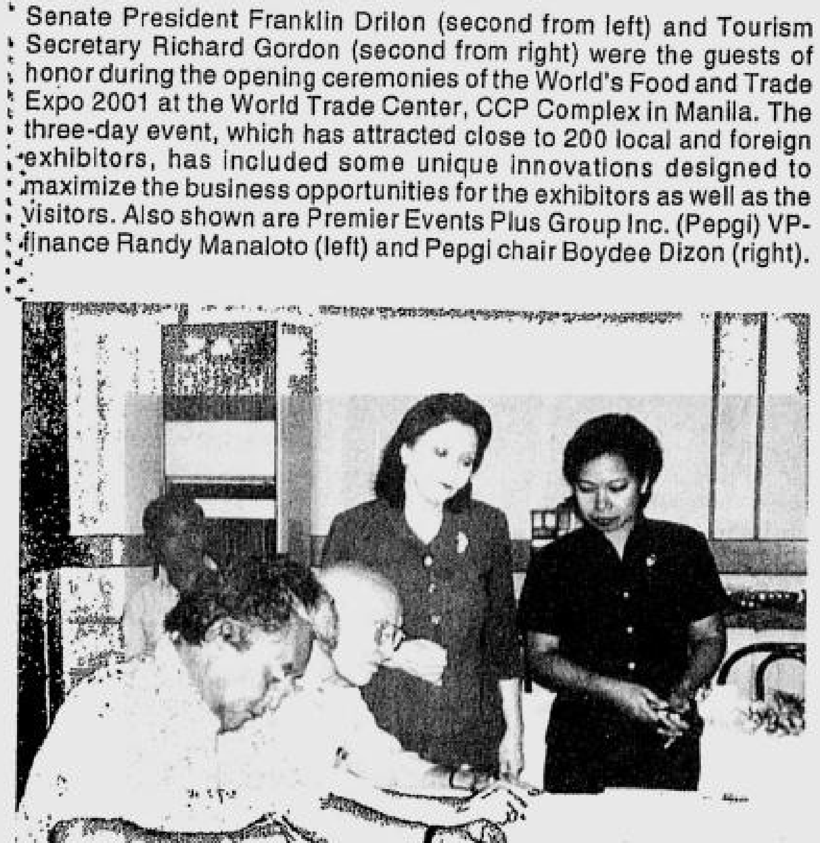
Winning BBDO/Guerrero Ortega clients included Adidas, Canesten, Dot Ph and FedEx.

Moreover, David Guerrero, regional creative director of FedEx Asia/Pacific, won a Gold Lion for a FedEx poster. He became the first Filipino to win a Gold Lion along with Suthisak Sucharittanonta of BBDO Bangkok.

BBDO/Guerrero Ortega is the local agency of the BBDO Worldwide network – the current AdAge Global Agency Network of the Year. BBDO Worldwide is part of Omnicom Group Inc., the leading marketing communications company in the world.

**VIPS AT THE WORLD'S FOOD EXPO**

Senate President Franklin Drilon (second from left) and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon (second from right) were the guests of honor during the opening ceremonies of the World's Food and Trade Expo 2001 at the World Trade Center, CCP Complex in Manila. The three-day event, which has attracted close to 200 local and foreign exhibitors, has included some unique innovations designed to maximize the business opportunities for the exhibitors as well as the visitors. Also shown are Premier Events Plus Group Inc. (Pepgi) VP-finance Randy Manaloto (left) and Pepgi chair Boydee Dizon (right).



**CAP COLLEGE BOOSTS LEARNING**

CAP College Foundation Inc., one of the pioneering institutions in distance education, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the local government of Cagayan de Oro for the implementation of the Distance Education Approach and Response for Collegiate Advancement and Proficiency (DEAR CAP) scholarship program. 50 scholars will be chosen to take any of the several courses CAP College offers under its College of Business Administration and College of Liberal Arts. The scholarship program covers tuition, modules and learner support collaterals. The local government of Cagayan de Oro, for its part, will handle the tutorial support and monitoring of the scholars' academic standing. Shown are CAP chair Dr. Alejandro R. Roces and Mayor Vicente Emano signing the agreement. Looking on are CAP SVP Ma. Carmen Sobrepeña and DEAR CAP supervisor Grace Angell Najera.

## Chronic muscle pain and phobia management workshop

A "BASIC Course on Instant Chronic Muscle Pain and Phobia Management" was held last Oct. 6 at the Goash Wellness Center, Suite 2108, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

Christina E. V. Mancao, MD taught participants "Instant Myofascial Release Technique (IMRT)," considered the fastest non-drug approach for the relief of chronic muscle pain.

Amado D. Samia Jr., a bioenergy psychologist, on the other hand, introduced "Energy Touch Therapy" (ETT). This is his innovative and Filipinized version of "Power Touch Therapy" which is now making waves in the United States, United Kingdom and other parts of Europe.

Those who attended the seminars learned techniques for instant relief of chronic muscle pain syndromes and experienced rapid relief from various forms of phobias. Emotional trauma and other forms of debilitating emotional ailments that accompany degenerative diseases and malignant tumors. Even human excellence problems such as public speaking, making presentations, handling difficult people, traumas resulting from failures in business, relationships, concentration problems in school and sports performance are improved.

Graduates of this 2-in-1, one-day workshop received a certificate, a therapy manual, free microcirculation (capillary) assessment and the unique bioceramic bandage.

For more information call 636-7424, 924-9261, 0919-6254204 or 0919-2849470, or visit the Goash Wellness Center, Suite 2108, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. E-mail kristiansel@edsamail.com.ph.

## Makro opens 8th store in Pampanga

DAU, Mabalacat, Pampanga is the host community to Pilipinas Makro as it formally opened for business last Oct. 24.

Located along MacArthur Highway in Barangay Camachiles, Dau in Mabalacat, the 7,400 sqm store will cover areas north of Manila.

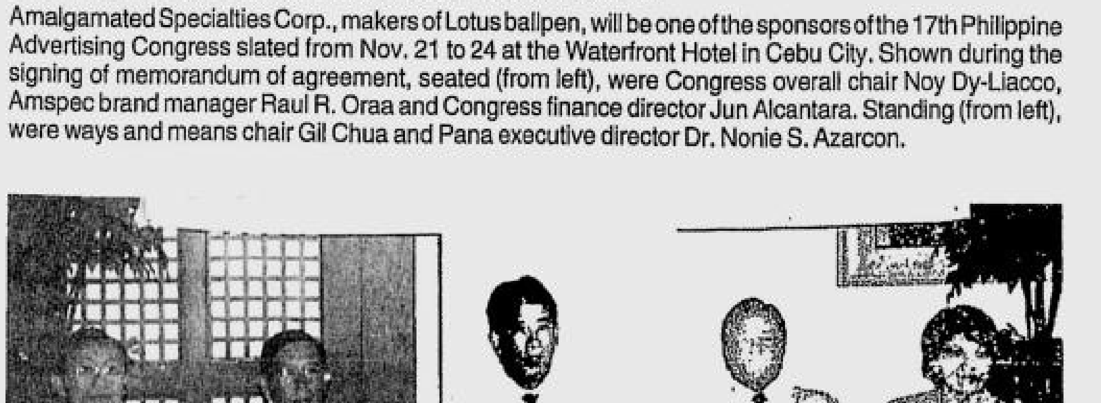
Makro's volume-driven, low-cost, self-service, cash-and-carry trading operation is seen by the industry sector as a means to create more business opportunities for traders north of the metropolis.

"Makro will continue to provide customers with the lowest food and non-food prices in the local market", says Efren Rueda, Makro president managing director.

Asintado sa Pinoy ngayon

**PEN MAKERS INK CONGRESS SPONSORSHIP**

Amalgamated Specialties Corp., makers of Lotus ballpen, will be one of the sponsors of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress slated from Nov. 21 to 24 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Shown during the signing of memorandum of agreement, seated (from left), were Congress overall chair Noy Dy-Liacco, Amspec brand manager Raul R. Oraa and Congress finance director Jun Alcantara. Standing (from left), were ways and means chair Gil Chua and Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon.



**BPI FAMILY'S P5B FOR HOUSING**

BPI Family Bank recently launched Express Pabahay and Express First Home, two new special loan packages that promise the lowest rates with the longest payment terms for first-time home buyers. BPI Family Bank is setting aside P5 billion for this purpose in support of the government's shelter program. Shown at the launching were (from left), VP Rolando Peñaflor, head of specialized lending; SVP Ricardo de la Torre, head of consumer loans; Aurelio R. Montinola, BPI Family Bank president; SVP David Sarmiento, Jr., head of auto and housing loans; and Estelita Oliveros, HR manager, Sara Lee Philippines.

**AMBASSADOR DIALOGUES WITH IRISH OFFICIALS**

Philippine Ambassador to the Court of St. James in London, Cesar B. Bautista, who is also accredited to Ireland and Iceland, was in Dublin for a series of meetings and dialogues with Irish government officials on the subject of Philippine workers in that country. Bautista met with Irish ministers and senior officials such as Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, Foreign Affairs Secretary General Dermont Gallagher, and Minister of Trade and Employment Tom Kitts and other Irish employment officials. The Ambassador was accompanied to these meetings by Consul General Mario de Leon, Labor Attache Vicente Manzano, and Philippine Honorary Consul in Dublin John Ferris. There have been 5,000 work permits issued to Filipinos in the past two years by the Irish government, mostly in nursing and other health services,

## CLEAN CAR, CLEAN WORLD

# Toyota soars ahead in Tokyo Motor Show

**BY AL S. MENDOZA**

TOYOTA'S DMT

TOYOTA, which recently dislodged Chrysler from third spot in world car manufacturing (GM is No. 1 and Ford No. 2), had the most number of passenger cars with 35 on exhibit among 11 Japanese exhibitors in the Tokyo Motor Show, the 35th edition since its birth in 1954. In a stunning show of force, Daihatsu came in second with 24, followed by Honda and Mitsubishi in a tie for third with 21 each. Suzuki unveiled 20 and Nissan 18 like Mazda. Isuzu unleashed 8, including a concept van that can be converted into a home complete with a bed and a coffee table beside it; a photo of it landed in the front pages of some of Japan's major newspapers.

Interestingly, Daihatsu's powerful showing was backstopped by Toyota, which now controls 51 percent of Daihatsu.

Japan exhibited 201 cars from a total of 414 passenger cars on display; the rest came from 12 other countries like the United States, Germany, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Korea, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

### Show must go on

"Despite recent disrupting events, we believe the show must go on," said Fujio Cho, president of Toyota Motor Corp., in a pointed reference to the recent suicidal plane attacks by terrorists that toppled the 110-story Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. "This is the first Tokyo Motor Show of the 21st century. After looking around at the cars, what do you think? Have we gone too far this time? Or not far enough?"

Toyota has gone far enough as to be able to pursue its avowed mission to mass-produce hybrid vehicles such as the Prius, the first hybrid vehicle to be unleashed in 1997. Toyota intends to roll out 300,000 hybrid vehicles in 2005 to include the new Estima Hybrid 4-wheel drive minivan. Hybrid vehicles have less toxic emissions and consume much lesser gasoline.

### Main display vehicles

Already, Toyota and Daihatsu have partnered to present the "New Dream-filled Mobility" that was highlighted by 29 concept cars and 56 production vehicles from 40 vehicle series. Their main display vehicles were broken down to:

- **Ecology**

—Ultra-high fuel-efficient vehicles—Toyota ES3, Daihatsu UFE.

—Fuel cell hybrid vehicles: Toyota FCHV-4, Toyota FCHV-5, Daihatsu Move FCV-K-11.

—Hybrid vehicles: Daihatsu Atrai Hybrid-1V.

- **Sports**

—Two-seater roadsters: Toyota FXS, Daihatsu Copen.

—4WD off-road sports car: Toyota RSC.

- **New concept**

—IT-based concept cars: Toyota's pod and WiLL VC.

—Cars offering new value: Toyota's DMT, ist and Voltz; Daihatsu's FF Ultra Space, MUSE and U4B.

Toyota has also unfurled its IT and ITS technologies that are aimed at creating a next-generation mobile society through the provision of car multimedia (emergency call service Helpnet) and car intelligence (navigation-shift control, radar cruise control and backup guide monitor with voice guidance).

### Cars of the future

Toyota's hybrid vehicles are definitely the cars of the future. In a hybrid vehicle, the power and self-contained mobility of the internal combustion engine are combined with the clean efficiency of the electric motor.

The result is a car that is the equal of conventional vehicles in range and performance, with far fewer harmful emissions and much better fuel economy.

It was in 1997 that Toyota "shocked" the motoring world with its Prius, the world's first mass-produced hybrid car. Last year, a new Prius, with even better fuel economy, a roomier interior and higher performance, was released on the North American and European markets; again as in 1997, it was received with rave reviews.

The Prius' ultra-efficient THS (Toyota Hybrid System) power plant exceeds both California's stringer SULEV and the Euro4 environmental standards. To date, about 70,000 Priuses have been sold worldwide.

The Toyota Hybrid System works this way:

(1) At startup, the car is powered by the electric motor only.

(2) Normal driving, motor and engine powers the car.

(3) At acceleration, motor and engine, plus additional power drawn from batteries.

(4) At deceleration, battery charging.

(5) At stopping, engine automatically shuts off.

(6) At startup anew, only the electric motor works up power.

Several Filipino journalists were lucky in enough to have gotten aboard the new mild-hybrid Crown with the THS in a test-drive around some of Tokyo's thoroughfares. The engine power shuts off when the car stops at intersections and traffic signals.

Indeed time will come when cars aren't that dependent anymore on fossil fuel to include that "black gold" commonly known as oil. Already, one fuel cell-battery-powered Toyota car consumes only 2.7 liters of gasoline to cover 50 km! Likewise, Toyota's new purely electric-generated cars have practically eliminated dirt-laden emissions.

Toyota has taken the lead in man's quest for a world free of dirt-filled atmosphere, car emission-wise.

Seemingly, the rest have become mere spectators.

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**THE WRITER** and the 2002 BMW 7 Series she drove in Italy

# Driving BMW's new 7 Series in Italy

**ON THE ROAD**

*Aida Sevilla-Mendoza*

IT'S not every year that BMW organizes a world premiere for a new car. However, the new 7 Series (735i and 745i) sets so many impressive precedents in automotive engineering, performance, safety and convenience that it merited an international press launch in Fiuggi, a charming little mountain resort town an hour's drive south of Rome. For the event, which lasted six weeks in September-October and saw the daily arrival and departure of batches of motoring journalists from all over the world, BMW brought 20 new 7 Series all the way from Germany to Italy plus 30 "old" (2001 model) 7's for shuttle duty to and from Rome's Fiumicino Airport.

Together with three other Filipino motoring journalists, I flew to Rome from Munich after a three-day familiarization tour of BMW's facilities in that Bavarian city. It was sunny and balmy the two days we were in Fiuggi, perfect autumn weather for driving on the twisting mountain roads surrounded by bucolic scenery.

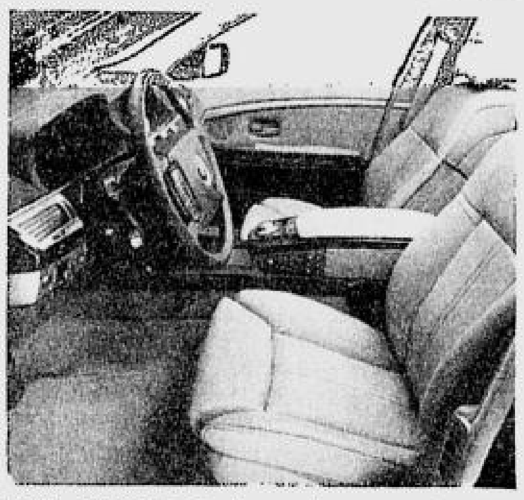
Viewed from any angle, BMW's newest super sedan exudes presence—a powerful, dynamic and reliable presence. In contrast to its predecessor's wedge shape, the new 7's sculpture flows more fluidly and aerodynamically from the familiar kidney grille to a coupé-like roof to wider, more curvaceous taillights down to the reassuringly large 17-inch alloy wheels. The resulting impression: a quiet yet sportier kind of massive elegance and strength.

The understated and refined luxury is carried over into the spacious interior's leather upholstery, wood trim and power everything. The microfiber-lined luggage compartment can accommodate four golf bags while its lid holds the tool kit, hazard warning triangle and first-aid pouch.

The BMW engineers on hand emphasized that the 2002 7 Series is a totally new car from the ground up, not at all based on its predecessor nor on the competition. Thus, aside from a shapely new bod, a new engine (for the 735i, a 3.6-liter V8 capable of 272 bhp @ 6,200 rpm and max torque of 265 lb-ft @ 3,700 rpm; while the 745i has a 4.4-liter V8 producing 333 bhp @ 6,100 rpm and 332 lb-ft @ 3,600 rpm max torque, both models with VALVETRONIC and Bi-VANOS,) the world's first six-speed automatic transmission with integrated shift-by-wire technology, and new ergonomics (iDrive).

iDrive is BMW's futuristic concept of reducing the number of controls and instruments for the convenience of the driver. Four stalks on the steering column operate the turn indicators, wiper system, cruise control and automatic transmission, eliminating the need for a gearshift lever in the middle of the floor. The driver can switch from automatic to sports and manual mode by pressing a button on the multifunction steering wheel, then shift gears manually by means of paddles on the steering wheel. A Controller in the shape of an aluminum knob at the front end of the center armrest is manipulated to activate any of the eight Control Center menus and select from the options seen in the LCD display in the middle of the dash. In Europe, these options include a cell phone, navigation system, on-board data, climate control, entertainment (TV, CD, DVD, MD, cassette/radio) and BMW Internet gateway.

The first time I took the wheel of the new 7 Series, its unusual ergonomics—stalks, buttons and paddles on the steering wheel plus Controller knob on the armrest—befuddled me, but after a while I got the logic behind iDrive. It enhanced my driving enjoyment in the beautiful countryside of southern Italy together with the other members of the Philippine group. Driving a Bimmer is always an exhilarating experience, what more if the one at hand is the latest top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art, high-performance luxury super saloon capable of hitting 100 km/h from zero in just 6.3 seconds. On the Autostrada, the 7 Series cruised easily and smoothly at 230 km/h; BMW claims its top speed is 250 km/h. For a car of its size, the new 7 was amazingly agile, responsive and quiet. The agility is partly due to improved power-to-weight ratio (from 10.3 to 9.3 kg/kW for the 735i, from 8.8 to 7.6 kg/kW for the 745i). Spontaneous responsiveness is mainly attributed to fully variable management of the intake valves by VALVETRONIC free of any throttle effect, making the 8-cyl Powerplant respond to the lightest pressure on the gas pedal faster than any gasoline direct-injection engine. VALVETRONIC and fully variable Bi-VANOS management of all camshafts not only improve the new 7's max output by 14 percent, they also lower fuel consumption by 14 percent to 10.9 liters per 100 km (for the 745i) compared to the previous 7 Series, reduce noise levels and harmful emissions no matter what standard of commercially available fuel is used. In addition, oil change intervals are extended up to 40,000 km.


THE BMW 7 Series offers comfortable seating

On the winding mountain roads, the new 7 behaved like a true Bimmer, displaying the nimbleness, directional stability and steering accuracy of a 3 Series, thanks to its all-aluminum chassis and suspension, extra-large aluminum brake calipers, Dynamic Traction Control and electronic brake distribution. Three active suspension options further enhance riding comfort: Dynamic Drive to suppress body sway in bends, Continuous Electronic Damper Control to dampen any body vibration and pneumatic suspension with self-leveling on the rear axle.

Active Cruise Control automatically adjusting the car's speed to traffic flow and keeping the car at a specified distance from the vehicle in front, anti-lock brakes, the Parking Brake/Automatic Hold securing the car not only when parked but also when stopped at a traffic light, the Intelligent Integrated Safety System activating the right airbag at the right time with the right intensity (the 7 Series has side and head airbags as well as front airbags), infinitely variable door retainers and electronic key are standard equipment.

The 7 Series comes with a long list of options such as Parking Distance Control with optical display, electrical sunblinds for rear side windows and Soft Close Automatic for doors, allowing the buyer to equip his car as if it were tailor-made for him. The 2002 7 Series that BMW Philippines Corp. plans to sell here will be the long wheelbase version, the 745iL, which has 5 inches more legroom in the back and a projected P8 million plus price tag. When the new 7 Series does arrive, it may create a new luxury segment a notch above the Mercedes S-Class but a notch below the Rolls-Royce, which will become a BMW Group brand in 2003. Whether in Fiuggi or in Manila, BMW's new 7 would be a treasure to own and a pleasure to drive.

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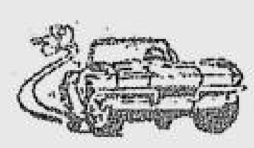
# Kudos to Abalos; Toyota's cost-reducing scheme

**FULL TANK**

*Al S. Mendoza*



IT was good enough. Traffic on Monday wasn't that bad. After that five-day vacation occasioned by the observance of All Saints' Day on Nov. 1, I was expecting a monstrous jam on Nov. 5 as vacationers coming back from the provinces would spill on the city's main arteries again.

There was none.

I believe Ben Abalos, the traffic czar, did his job well this time. Here's a glass to him.

* * *

**Actually, traffic in the metropolis can be managed properly if we only exert the correct efforts. For example, a basic flaw is the nondeployment of traffic personnel on identified choke points, like intersections that do not have traffic lights. Maybe, Abalos has men assigned there but said personnel do not do their job properly; they are either doing nothing or merely gathering under a shade and making jokes about Erap maybe or GMA. The trick is to field checkers to pounce on traffic personnel remiss with their duties.**

**Abalos can also field men who should monitor traffic lights that aren't working, men who should double as traffic enforcers in times of emergency.**

* * *

I just discovered one facet of Toyota's secret of success during my visit to the 35th Tokyo Motor Show. It's this: Toyota initiated in 2000 a policy to reduce costs on 173 vehicle parts while at the same time raising quality. What a novelty.

Toyota has started to develop the most cost-competitive parts in the world and at the same time create entirely new components to take over the functions of older designs.

To pursue this aim, Toyota is encouraging rewards to those who develop measures that generate big savings. Targeted parts include everything, from handgrips to dashboards and powertrain components.

Do you know that 70 percent of the vehicle business is materials and components?

Toyota's innovative guideline for the new millennium is: "Improving quality while reducing costs is a key strategy in delivering products that are as affordable as they are attractive."

I still have a hangover of Toyota's cars on display in the 35th Tokyo Motor Show, which ended yesterday. Truly, they are of quality and quite attractive, even as they reflect the cars of tomorrow: dirt-free engines, safe ride, comfort and mobility observed to the hilt.

No wonder Toyota has now become the world's third largest automaker.

* * *

**Still on the John Lennon Museum in Saitama City outside of Tokyo. On display there, aside from John Lennon's two Rickenbacker guitars, included John's bike when he was a boy and motorcycle—with a copy of his driver's license beside it. It was a thrill just gawking at them.**

**Again, my gratitude to Toyota's Danny Isla, who paid nearly P13,000 for taxi fare alone in bringing me and literary-journalism Prof. Sol Juvida (UP-Diliman) to the museum. Arigatoo 'ne, Danny-san!**

* * *

*QUOTE ME.* No car is expensive, or any commodity for that matter, for as long as you can afford it.

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## NISSAN FRONTIER 4 x 4

# You can't put a good truck down

**BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO AND TESSA R. SALAZAR**

WHEN Nissan set up shop on the high side of the pickup market with the Frontier about four years ago, critics (and the competition) were quick to pass judgment.

"A diesel with an automatic transmission just won't work," said one writer. The publicity mill was churning out rumors about lousy overtaking, irritating vibration and noise. Dealers of the competition spread nasty stories of sluggish performance and soggy build quality.

Through all of the literary muck, the Frontier quietly coasted along, slowly but surely rising up the mini-truck market year after year. When finally dominating the pickup segment, amid tough competition from Isuzu, Mitsubishi and later Ford, the Frontier finally silenced its critics with a punch in the nose. Proving the slightly paraphrased adage, "you can't put a good truck down."

### High value for money

**Raymond:** Tere, don't you think there are parallel experiences here? About not putting a good man, or woman down?

**Tessa:** Hmmm... but in a game show "The Weakest Link," a good man or a good woman can be put down and cast out for reasons beyond comprehension, such as the smart contestant is a female or the guy is the team's strongest link. In the real world, it does happen, doesn't it? I don't know how buyers determine the "weakest links" in the world of rough and tough trucks.

**Raymond:** But isn't Nissan also known for its rough and tough trucks? The image that always comes to my mind is that Nissan Classic Crew Cab running away from the pyroclastic flow in Mt. Pinatubo. Do you remember that ad, years ago?

**Mr. T.** (Frontier owner from Tandang Sora): I went to Porac, Pampanga, a week after Pinatubo erupted on a volunteer mission. It was almost inaccessible.

**Tessa:** Recent memories show that the Mt. Pinatubo-pickup image has been dominated somewhat by the Frontier's American competitor with its "tough it out" activities there. So what can you say about that, Raymond? Do we see these trucks organize a pickup challenge on top of Mt. Pinatubo to see once and for all which should reign in the performance category?

**Raymond:** Hmmm, not a bad idea. Let's ask Universal Motors Corp. senior vice president for marketing Elizabeth Lee why the Frontier's dominating despite the powerful presence of "tough it out" activities.

**Beth Lee:** The Frontier's overall dominance in the pickup category is largely due to the high value-for-money package we offer buyers that specifically fulfills their needs, especially during these hard economic times. There's also the strong reputation of Nissan trucks in general and in particular, with the Frontier's good showing since introduction in late 1998. It was the first truck in its category to offer an automatic transmission and the largest engine displacement available in the market.

**Mr. T.:** I agree to all that. But proof is really in the driving. My Frontier serves me very well, and it is still my favorite when I do all my out-of-town business trips. It really is a good compromise between comfort and performance. And you can drive it really hard when needed.

### On the high side

**Raymond:** But don't you think the Frontier is a bit expensive, compared to say the Fuego or the Strada? Toyota's Hi-Lux SR5 is surely a looker.

**Tessa:** How much are all these trucks?

**Raymond:** P900,000 to over a million a piece.

**Tessa:** Let's just say if we have some negative comments "down the road," it makes up for good things. For me, I like the pickup bed. It is solidly built, the sidings are higher, even human loads are not in danger of toppling over. The idea of having more than one compartment's fine with me. And it is a real looker, a head turner. What particular feature do you think makes the Frontier so popular?

### Hard charger

**Raymond:** It is a hard charging vehicle. The large displacement engine produces a wide amount of torque and without the aid of a turbocharger makes for good enough overtaking. It is surprisingly agile for its size but there is a lot of tire noise.

**Mr. T:** Of course there is a lot of tire noise! Those are not made-for-street tires. They are mixed use so don't expect silent running even on the smoothest of roads.

**Raymond:** And how about engine vibration?

**Mr. T:** There's just enough to tell you the engine is running.

**Raymond:** And that aircon vent that keeps fogging the windshield?

**Mr. T:** Doesn't happen in my pickup.

**Tessa:** I still find the quite tight legroom of the back passengers an issue. And yes, the windows and the windshields do fog, even if the vents are not aimed at them. I do notice that air from the aircon sneaks out from the corners of the dash. The child lock's hard to engage and disengage. And those darn clumsily placed cupholders.

**Raymond:** It is one goodlooking pickup. In black, it is especially tantalizing. With the huge overfenders, snarling grille, tall stance, it's like it can take anything the roads can dish out.

**Mr. T:** And it can. When I inspect some of my billboards far off North, I oftentimes have to literally cross through dried rice paddies. No problem with four-wheel drive and very convenient because of the automatic transmission.

**NISSAN** Frontier 4x4

**Raymond:** Well, I drove my service unit over some logs, 40-degree embankments, ruts a foot deep and other obstacles just for the heck of it. We did it in an empty village in Lipa with my nephew David as navigator and the Frontier produced a stellar performance.

### Why choose a pickup?

**Tessa:** Could you not have chosen an SUV instead? On paper it seems to have the same capabilities with much more pizzazz.

**Mr. T:** Maybe. But I haven't heard of an SUV that can go over the obstacles I encounter. Maybe the Subaru Forester, I tried riding in one over those obstacles they had in Festival Mall weeks ago. I was impressed. I am not sure however if it can beat the torque the 3.2-liter engine produces. *Ang lakas talaga ng hatak.* My Frontier has never let me down.

**Raymond:** Ms Lee, do you think that in times like these a pickup is a better choice over a car?

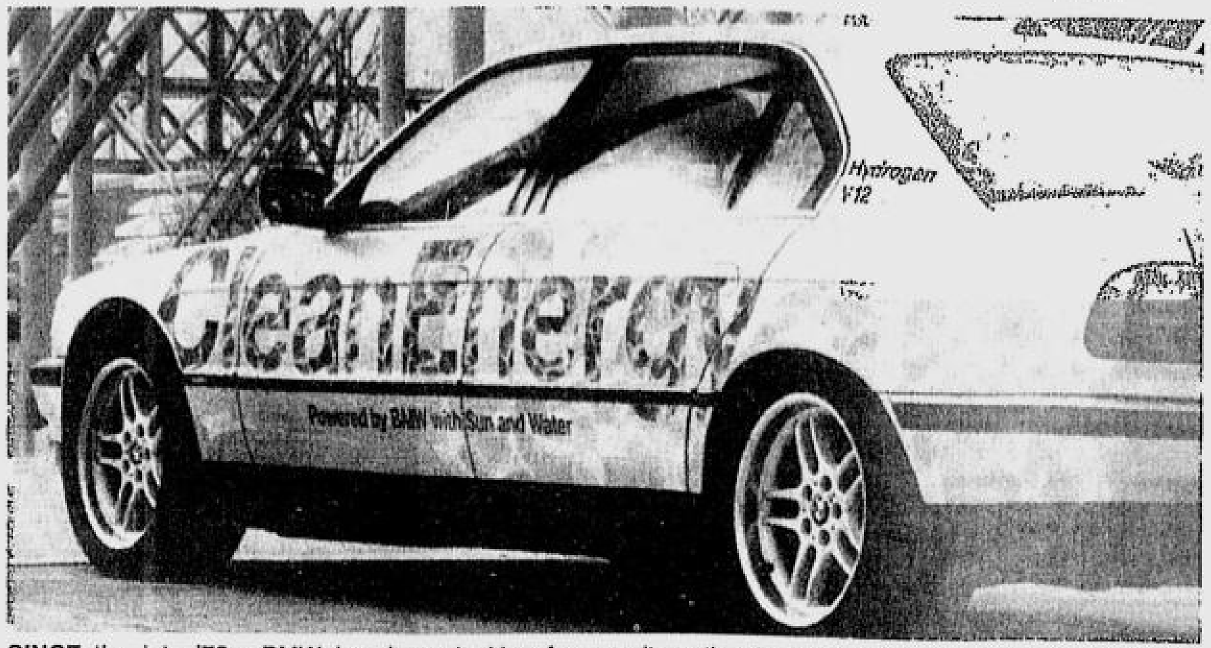
**Beth Lee:** The trend has been going more toward the CV market in general for some time now. So it's not surprising that CVs get a larger share of the sales pie. But will the share grow where buyers of passenger cars switch to pickup trucks instead? Maybe not.

Bulky, strong and agile best describe the 4x4 Frontier. An oversupply of power will keep the speed hungry happy and a massive band of torque will make short work of the off-road duties. The 4-wheel drive Frontier gets **8 out of 10** total points. Most of these points come from the satisfying engine, good handling and relatively good ride. Lows for noise (mostly from the tires and during idling), funny faux wood trim, the absence of a 4x4 indicator lamp in the instrument cluster and cargo bed space (there really isn't too much of it). Overall however, it's a well-engineered piece of machinery with the get-up-and-go for gratifying performance both on-street and off-road.

*(Many thanks to Rene T., Nissan Frontier and Crew cab owner, outdoor advertising executive and businessman.)*

# Hydrogen to power next-generation cars?

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN



SINCE the late '70s, BMW has been looking for an alternative to gasoline-run cars. The result is this 750hL sedan that uses internal combustion engines fuelled with liquid hydrogen.

THERE'S nothing new about hydrogen as an energy source. Hydrogen, the most abundant element in the universe, is what powers our sun and other stars. Yet, in its simplicity and abundance, hydrogen as fuel here on earth remains to be an elusive dream, especially for carmakers.

Until now, the industry is still dependent on petroleum-base fuel. Gasoline and diesel are still the cars' primary source of energy. But many of the environmental problems the world faces today result from fossil fuel dependence. These impacts include global warming, air quality deterioration, oil spills and acid rain.

Could hydrogen address both energy and clean air concerns?

In Jules Verne's 1874 novel "The Mysterious Island," a character in his story suggests that when fuels run out, "water will one day be employed as fuel, that hydrogen and oxygen which constitute it, used singly or together, will furnish an inexhaustible source of heat and light, of an intensity of which coal is not capable."

Indeed, Verne's visionary character was looking at an energy source unlike no other. The stuff that creates water when combined with oxygen, the stuff that makes balloons float, the stuff that propels our rockets skyward, is hoped one day to power cars and just about everything else.

### A second look at hydrogen

But it's only been in recent years—with a renewed emphasis on environmental issues spurring new interest in electric vehicles—that the world's leading automakers have seriously considered the use of this ubiquitous element, either in combination with or as a replacement for gasoline.

During the fourth stage of BMW's CleanEnergy World Tour 2001 in Tokyo last May, Dr. Burkhard Goschel, member of the BMW Group Board of Management for Development and Purchasing, announces his company's endorsement of hydrogen as "fuel of the 21st century."

"This is a visionary concept which could solve one of the most urgent problems facing mankind," he said.

The German automaker giant is demonstrating its hydrogen-powered vehicles during the global road show that kicked off in Dubai last February. The world tour has visited Brussels, Belgium; Milan, Italy; Tokyo, Japan; and recently Los Angeles in California, United States.

### Like a normal car

"It feels like a normal car. It can be operated like a normal car. And so the feeling for our customers will be, they have a high-powered car, a normal car with clean emissions," describes Klaus Pehr, head of concept cars for BMW in Munich, of this pioneering sedans.

At present, BMW has 15 of this modified 7-Series saloons (officially known as 750hL) participating in the road show. Combined, the cars have traveled more than 100,000 km proving that they can be used every day and not just for test run.

Speaking at the first, and currently, the only robotically operated hydrogen fueling station located at the Munich Airport, Pehr presented the sedans to invited guests. The 750hL runs on a 5.4-liter engine that uses liquid hydrogen and is capable of generating 150kW of power. Its 12-cylinder V-engine can attain a maximum speed of 226 km/hour. A single filling of its 140-liter liquid hydrogen tank can travel up to 400 km without refuel.

No underhood modifications to the 750hL were needed, as the hydrogen system was developed to operate with a conventional internal combustion engine. Since the hydrogen tank and the fuel cell are installed in the trunk, luggage capacity is reduced dramatically.

To provide sufficient combustible strength, the hydrogen 750hL uses is compressed to liquid form. This is done by chilling the gaseous hydrogen to an extreme temperature of minus 253 degrees Celsius. In its gaseous state, hydrogen has one-third the burning power of gas but once the hydrogen is liquefied, its combustion power is equal to that of gas.

BMW's ultimate goal is to produce hydrogen for its vehicles by electrolysis of water, that is by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen with electrical currents. This process produces no toxic emissions.

The hydrogen-using sedans are not on the market yet, but BMW is already considering ways to broaden their sales possibilities. One of the company's goals is a hydrogen-filling station in every European capital by 2005.

### Safety of hydrogen-fueled cars

Hydrogen has had a bad name since 1937 when the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg burst into flames during a visit to New York killing 36 of its 97 passengers. In 1986, the world was shocked once again when a leaking exhaust system ignited the hydrogen fuel of space shuttle Challenger causing it to explode. All its seven crewmembers died.

These instances were, however, dismissed by BMW. To prove their point, the hydrogen-powered cars underwent and passed necessary safety requirements and international standards.

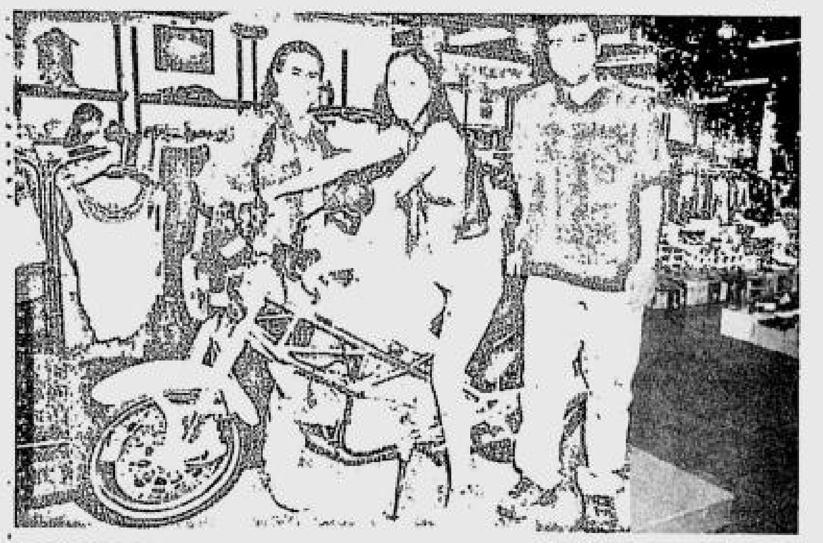
The tank, which houses the liquid hydrogen, is built with 70 layers of fiberglass and aluminum. To keep the fuel in its liquid state, the pressure inside the tank is maintained at (but not exceeding) four bars.

BMW has subjected the hydrogen tank to all types of crash tests along with the vehicle, and has been shown to be as safe as a conventional gasoline tank. "Even during a severe collision, there is virtually no danger posed by the hydrogen tank," assures Prof. Joachim Milberg, BMW Group chair.

The tests simulated a series of accidents that included collision, fire and tank ruptures. In all cases, the hydrogen cars fared well along with conventional gasoline vehicles. "Of course there is some risk, but it is comparable to the risk we have with conventional automotive fuels," says Milberg.

"I am convinced that in 10 years, the BMW Group will already be selling several thousands of hydrogen cars each year," he predicts.

Indeed, 10 years is not a long wait but first, car and energy companies, as well as governments from around the world, must work on a common path to make hydrogen-fueled cars a reality. More than engineering resources, infrastructures like filling stations are also needed to make hydrogen-powered cars a common highway sight.



PANICUCCI and ALBERTO, distributors of Ducati bikes, together with a staff member of Linea Italia

# Italian Ducati bikes now at Linea Italia

SELECT Linea Italia Group (LIG) and Marconi Fashion Group (MFG) stores are now some of Ducati bikes' showrooms/outlets. This was announced by LIG chair Freddy Panicucci and Toti Alberto, president of Access Plus, the local distributors of Ducati.

"Ducati is what Versace is in the world of fashion. Its image is very similar to Linea Italia—intense, sexy, uninhibited, exciting and Italian, of course. So we can say that the partnership is very symbiotic," says Panicucci. At present, LIG is working on another agreement with Access Plus so they would be made official distributors of Ducati in Cebu and other provinces.

Another motorcycle enthusiast, LIG Italian fashion consultant Fernando Fornacirari echoes Panicucci's enthusiasm. "It gives us great pleasure to work on something we enjoy doing—we give a great part of ourselves in pursuits like this. It comes naturally for us," he explains.

Ducati is the No. 1 motorcycle brand in Europe. It is very famous in the racing world, used by champions in countless racing events in Italy.

The first Ducati bike was made in 1946 in Bologna, Italy. It was, however, only in 1994 when these bikes were first introduced in the Philippines. "Back then, they were not widely available in the market and the price was very high," says Alberto, a former motorcycle race champion himself. It was only last year when Ducati's distribution network expanded and the prices were made more affordable.

Like Panicucci, Alberto believes that Linea Italia and Ducati complement each other. "We approached Linea Italia because it projects an image of Italian sophistication that is very much similar to Ducati. We feel that their stores are good venues to establish awareness of Ducati bikes. They have very good store locations and the perfect clientele. It's a chance to combine the best of both worlds."

The tie-up is part of LIG's vision of eventually branching out to other fields related to its image.

Check out Ducati bikes in select Linea Italia shops like Corso Marconi at the corner of Morse and Marconi Streets, Makati City, and Linea Italia 6750 on Ayala Avenue.

# 'Domo Arigato, Mr. Roboto'

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

*(First of two parts)*

THE TOKYO Motor Show 2001 produced a slew of hybrid and concept vehicles that will determine the future of the automobile. No longer are car manufacturers all wrapped up in developing the biggest, fastest and strongest cars. Now the direction seems to be on making smaller, roomier, more conscientious vehicles, sensitive to the environment and to finite natural resources.

Billed as Asia's most important motoring exhibit, the 2001 Tokyo Motor Show featured cutting-edge products and technologies for passenger vehicles, motorcycles with special emphasis on electric and hybrid vehicles.

The 35th Tokyo Motor Show came at the heels of a deep economic slowdown in Japan and elsewhere around the world. The anxiety of a terrorist attack prompted organizers to reschedule the exhibit. The idea was however dropped after stern opposition from participants. Neither fear of terrorism nor war will stop the world's automakers from peddling their products to this car-hungry planet.

### Wild imaginations

It is not uncommon for Japanese designers to let their imaginations run wild, marrying technological daring with almost embarrassing peculiarity. This is reflected in the kind of outlandish concept cars they have developed.

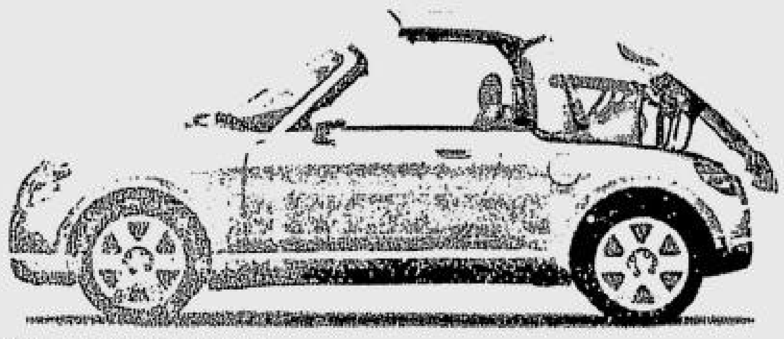
A concept car is an idea in progress. These vehicles may not even see the production line, but because they are works in conceptual stage, they oftentimes become the basis for developing platforms of actual cars.

And quite notably, the Japanese have a knack for making many of these concept cars go from drawing board to production models.

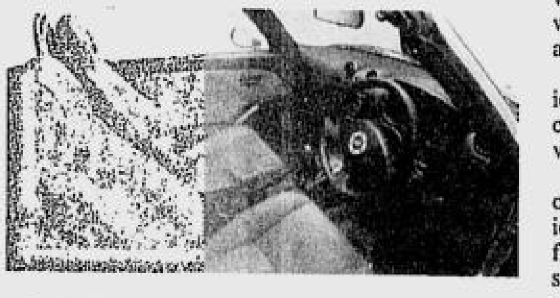
In 1993, Honda designers envisioned an electric-powered vehicle that could go as fast as 100 kilometers per hour and travel over 200 km on a single charge. Four years later they released the Honda EV, which could go faster than 140 kph, carry five adults, cruise at 60 kph, travel 250 km before "filling up" with a recharge.

This year is no different.

No less than 30 concept cars from different carmakers were on display. Nissan Motors alone had 8 concept vehicles on exhibit. Toyota showed off its Estima Hybrid, which has gone from concept to running in two short years. Honda has its Unibox, Bulldog and Dual Note and Mitsubishi came with its Space Liner and SUP or Sports Utility Pack.



FROM CONCEPT to car



Each of these concept vehicles may cost from US$100,000 to $1.5 million to develop.

### The stranger the better

Putting things into perspective, some concept cars will most likely not see production because they are either too queer or too expensive to produce. The fact is many Japanese designers go overboard with shameless funkiness to make their animé-inspired creations. But that doesn't mean these vehicles are at all useless or impractical.

Take Honda's Unibox for instance. Operated by a joystick and cruising by radar and CCD cameras, it is designed to communicate with other vehicles to prevent crashes. It has two electric fold-up motorcycles (the battery-propelled e-Dax), tucked away behind the see-through module panels.

Looking like a giant translucent lunchbox, it reveals its occupants as they travel on six wheels around Tokyo's crowded traffic. Mobile voyeurism? Could be. Plausible but still eccentric is Nissan's ideo.

Described by Nissan's president Carlos Ghosn as "a computer mouse that you control not with your fingertips but with a steering wheel as you browse the community around you." It is according to Ghosn "a search engine powered by a real engine." The ideo will thrive on the database of information available by wireless telephone and satellite to navigate its way through a city.

But it does not end with navigation alone. The ideo's entire dashboard is a display panel, providing a constant stream information, including panoramic views of the landscape.

Using "telematics," which is essentially a marriage of wireless communications and entertainment systems, ideo drivers can access multimedia features ranging from hands-free cell phones to the ability to trade stocks to getting roadside assistance or choosing a movie to watch.

But nothing will beat Toyota's emotionally charged, tail-wagging, mood-swapping "pod." This hybrid vehicle was developed in cooperation with electronics giant Sony Corp.

The four-passenger car smiles, frowns and cries as it shares the driver experience with other drivers. An LED display shows the occupant's feelings as well as through its tail (which doubles as an AM-FM and cellular antenna) and a number of display units.

Sensing emotional state through pulse rates and sweat levels, the "pod" can show stress, and may try to relieve this by playing soothing music and providing a cooler ambience.

"The concept car explores the potential for communication between people and their vehicles," Toyota says in its literature.

*(Next week: Practicality is the key. How concepts go from idea to actual car. And Honda's new hybrid Civic. Civic performance in an environmentally responsible sedan.)*

# New Shell Rimula heavy-duty diesel engine oils introduced

PILIPINAS Shell has launched the New Shell Rimula family of heavy-duty diesel engine oils to meet the needs of the new millennium motorist, using highly efficient and up-to-date diesel oil technology.

The New Shell Rimula diesel engine oils have a new and improved formulation that was developed to deliver value-added performance in diesel engine lubrication and protection. The Rimula Super and premium-protection Rimula X, complemented by quality oils Rimula D and J, take heavy-duty diesel engine lubrication to new levels of performance.

### Public launch

The launch was held at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel, in the presence of valued customers and friends, Shell dealers, media people, government officials and Pilipinas Shell's officers and staff. Pilipinas Shell vice president for commercial Romy B. de Guzman was there to witness the event.

The New Shell Rimula was formulated with the consumers in mind. It specifically addresses the needs of trucks, buses and other heavy-duty vehicles for the right engine lubrication solutions. Such vehicles are used by various companies and individuals for public utility, cargo delivery, among others.

The new diesel engine oils are particularly cost-effectve, working to help vehicle owners and operators control maintenance costs and increase their profitability.

### Benefits

The New Shell Rimula has a longer capacity to combat combustion acids, resist water and stress. It also has a special diesel additive technology proven to deliver the following benefits: longer Total Base Number (TBN) retention that combat acids produced by fuel combustion; excellent wear performance; high resistance to oil breakdown due to heat; and cleaner engine for better diesel engine performance.

The New Shell Rimula easily passed tests using European, US and Japanese trucks in high and low sulphur environments; in extreme high temperatures, dusty conditions of deserts in the Middle East; in the heat and humidity of the tropics such as Thailand; in the rough, rugged outback roads of Australia and also in countries with poor quality fuels.

The New Shell Rimula is now available at Shell service stations, auto supply shops and franchise workshops.

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# MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

# Motor show opens doors of innovation, change

BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

**DESPITE the global economic slowdown and the ongoing war against terrorism, the optimistic theme of the Tokyo Motor Show this year was "Open the Door! The Automo-bile's Bright Future." The 35th Tokyo Motor Show opened to the public Oct. 27 in Makuhari Messe (Nippon Convention Center) in Chiba Prefecture and closed yes-terday.**

The motor show's organizer, Japan Motor Industrial Federation Inc., said that it is fitting for the first Tokyo Motor Show to be held at the onset of the 21st century to project the image of a curtain rising on a bright new era juxtaposed with that of doors opening for a vast succession of new automobiles. Metaphorically, the "doors of innovation and change" opening up with technological solutions that will safeguard the environment are also evoked.

The motor show featured displays of cutting-edge products and technologies, including passenger vehicles, motorcycles and electric vehicles along with parts and related products in an exhibit display area of 42,119 square meters. Six governments (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden and the United States), two organizations (the Japan Electric Vehicles Association and the Japan Auto Parts Industries Association) and 273 companies from 13 countries around the world participated.

This year's motor show had three special events. At the Theme Hall, "Breakthroughs in Automotive Technology—History-Making Cars from Japan" introduced visitors to the ingenuity of Japan's automakers via a display of 22 automobiles, 12 motorcycles and parts. For the first time, a Show Stage has been set up in the Theme Hall with games and other events involving visitor participation.

The Children's Automobile Art Show exhibited 3,443 pieces based on the theme "The Automobiles of Our Dreams (of the Future)" drawn by older children from 53 kindergartens in Chiba City. The Children's Automobile Art Show has been a part of the Tokyo Motor Show since the 28th event held in 1989 and aims to deepen interaction with the local community aside from providing children with a venue to present their dreams with regard to the automobile.

On Oct. 31, a symposium, "Talk in 2001," was held in the Prince Hall of the adjacent Makuhari Prince Hotel on the theme "Open the Door: A smart drive for the new tomorrow—how do the different generations perceive the charm and value of vehicles."

During the Press Days (Oct. 24 and 25), a press center was opened at the International Conference Room on the second floor. To facilitate information transmission and exchange, the press center was equipped with telephones, fax machines, a copy machine, computers offering Internet and e-mail access, lockers for hand luggage and an interview room.

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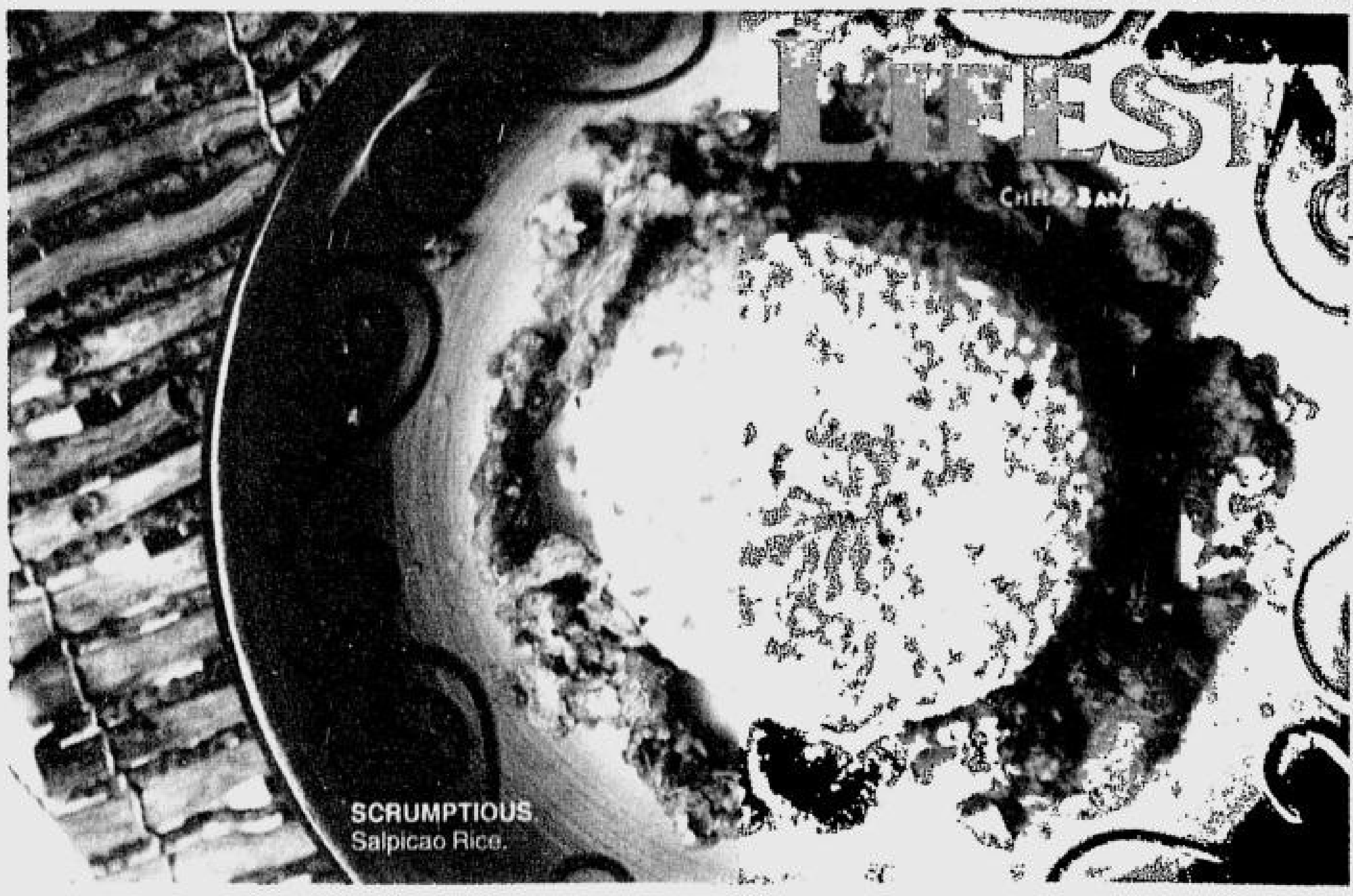

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# Café with a soul

By Cathy Babao-Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

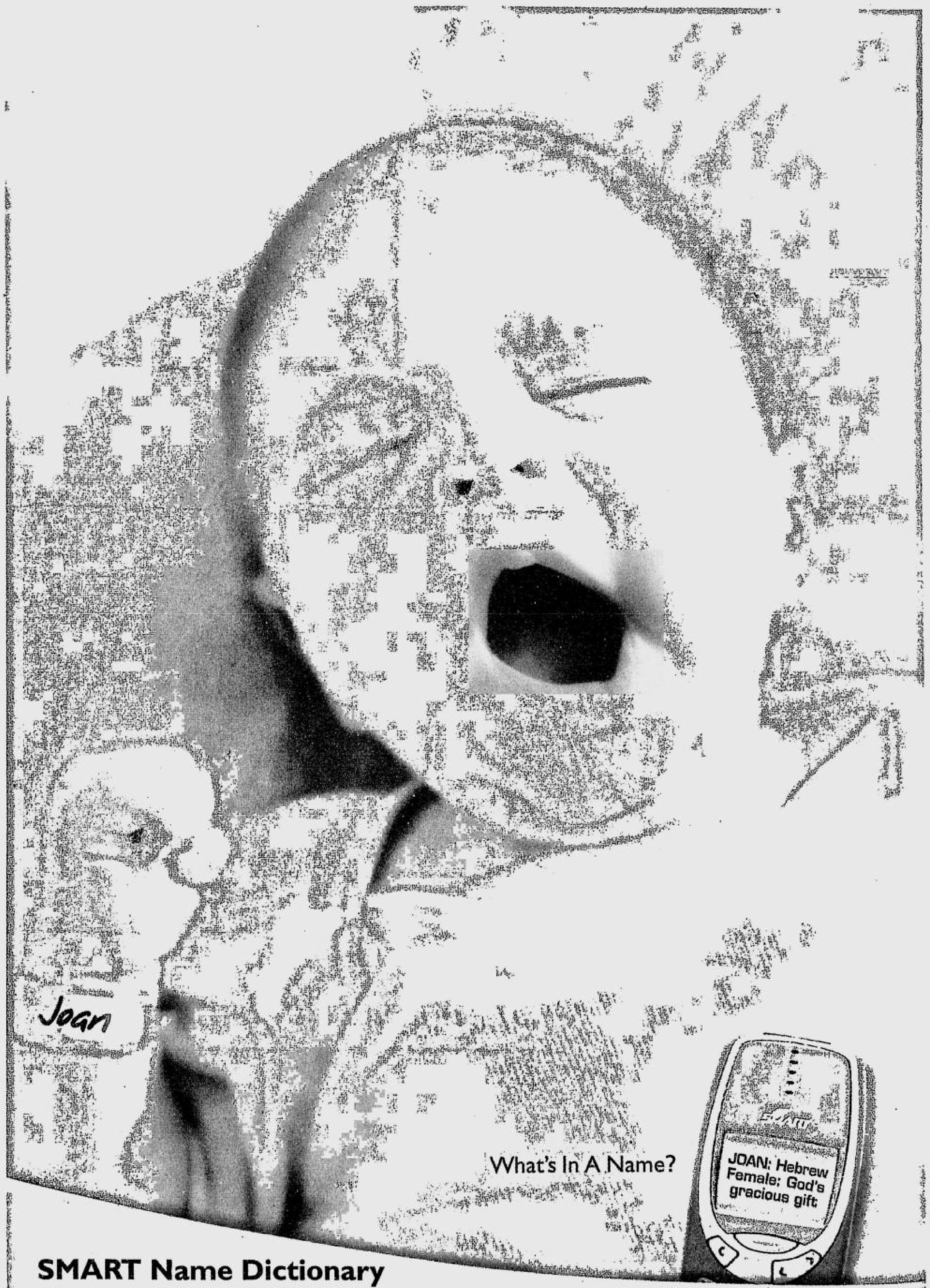
**IN A QUIET, shady corner of busy UN Avenue is a small, cozy café and diner that dishes out comfort food reminiscent of home. Café Juan Soy (tel. 484-1187), managed by couple Eric and Marge Barro, offers delicious yet surprisingly affordable food amid interiors that are bright, cheery and eclectic.**

*Balikbayan* restaurateur Willy Ragaza used to own a small café on the West Coast and had long wanted to set up one in Manila. He found a cozy corner at the Royal Bay Terrace Condominium (UN.Avenue and Cortada Street) where one can still see historic calesas plying the UN Avenue route. "The original name of the restaurant was supposed to be Cilantro but since there was already a restaurant by that name, Willie decided to stylize the Tagalog translation of cilantro, which is *wansuy*, to Café Juan Soy," says Marge Barro. Ragaza left a few months ago to attend to some business in the US so the Barros took over the management and operations of the restaurant.

The Barros have been specializing in catering. Last year, they ventured in a project called Food for the Soul, a nonprofit marketing arm for a wide variety of food products made in monastery kitchens around the country. "Café Juan Soy is now the exclusive retail outlet for Food for the Soul makers," Marge says.

Café Juan Soy's menu is a mix of local and global favors. Meals here are served from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Its breakfast selection varies from the traditional *ensaymada*, which is great with a cup of hot, thick chocolate or Monk's Blend coffee, to healthy tuna *chorizo* that comes all the way from General Santos City. Diners swear that it tastes like real *chorizo* but minus the calories. There is also hot and spicy Spanish sardines or the rare *tawilis* in olive oil prepared by the Good Shepherd Nuns of Tagaytay City. Breakfast is only the beginning. At Café Juan Soy, the lunch and dinner specials are to drool for. Its Chicken Rosemary is light and juicy and served with glazed vegetables. Steve's Ribs are deep-fried tender ribs sprinkled with crispy gar-

CAFÉ/ p.C2



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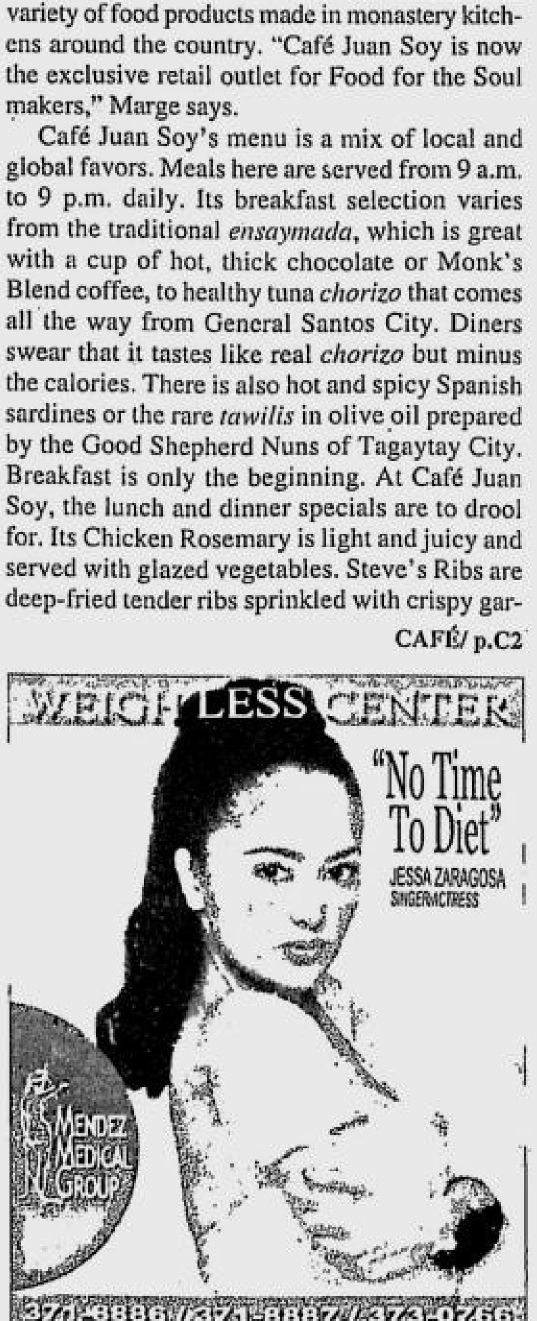

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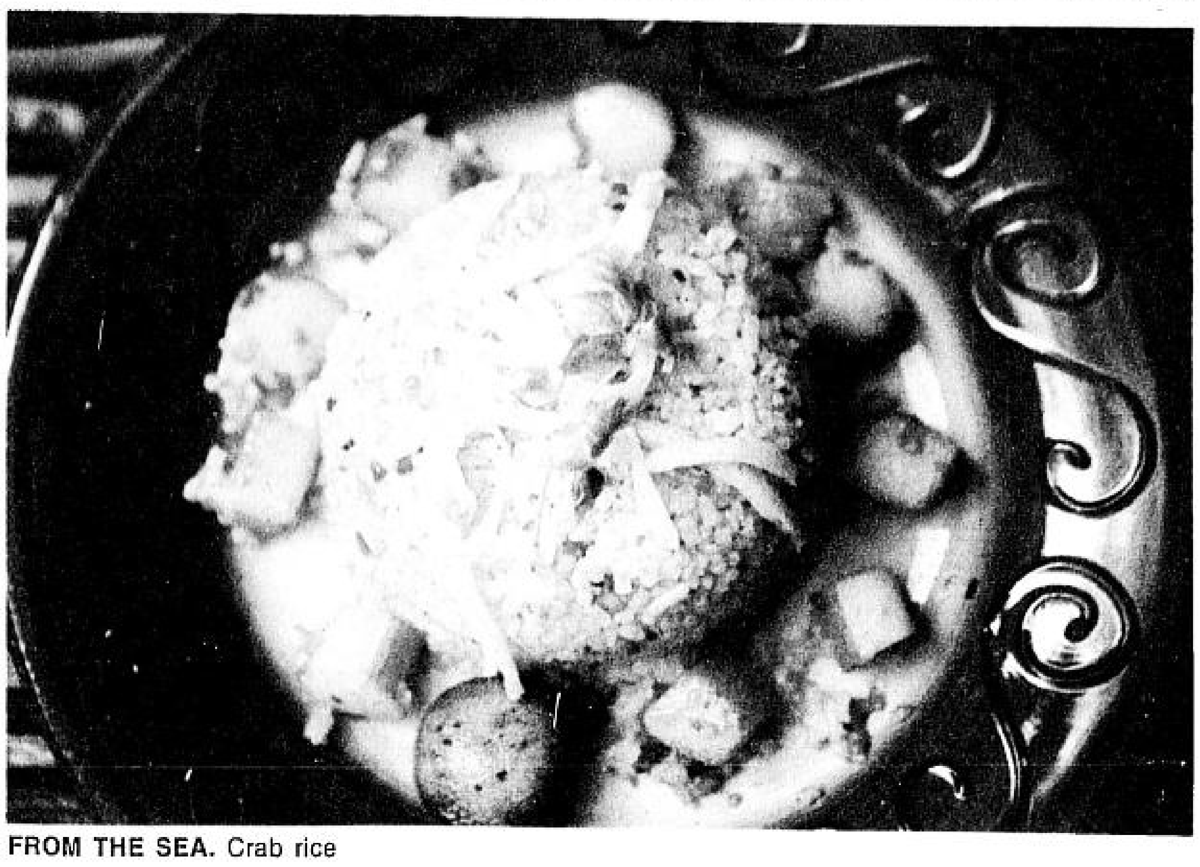
**JAPANESE TWIST.** Sukiyaki Fusilli



**FROM THE SEA.** Crab rice

# Café with a soul

(From page C1)

lic. A personal favorite is the Tabako Rolls, which are golden crispy spring rolls with shrimps and shiitake mushrooms.

The café's rice cuisine is its all-time winner, with or without any of the house specials. "We use only a special variety of gourmet rice all the way from the province of Abra, and season it with international flavors," Marge says.

Take a look at this selection—rich and tasty Crab rice, spicy Wasabi rice, healthy Pesto rice and garlicky Salpicao rice, to name a few. The best part is that these meals are reasonably priced at P75 per bowl. If you prefer pasta, the café has that, too. Sukiyaki Fusilli, which is a spiral spaghetti with a Japanese twist, is quite yummy, or you can try the Crab Vermicelli, which is extra fine noodles flavored with crab paste.

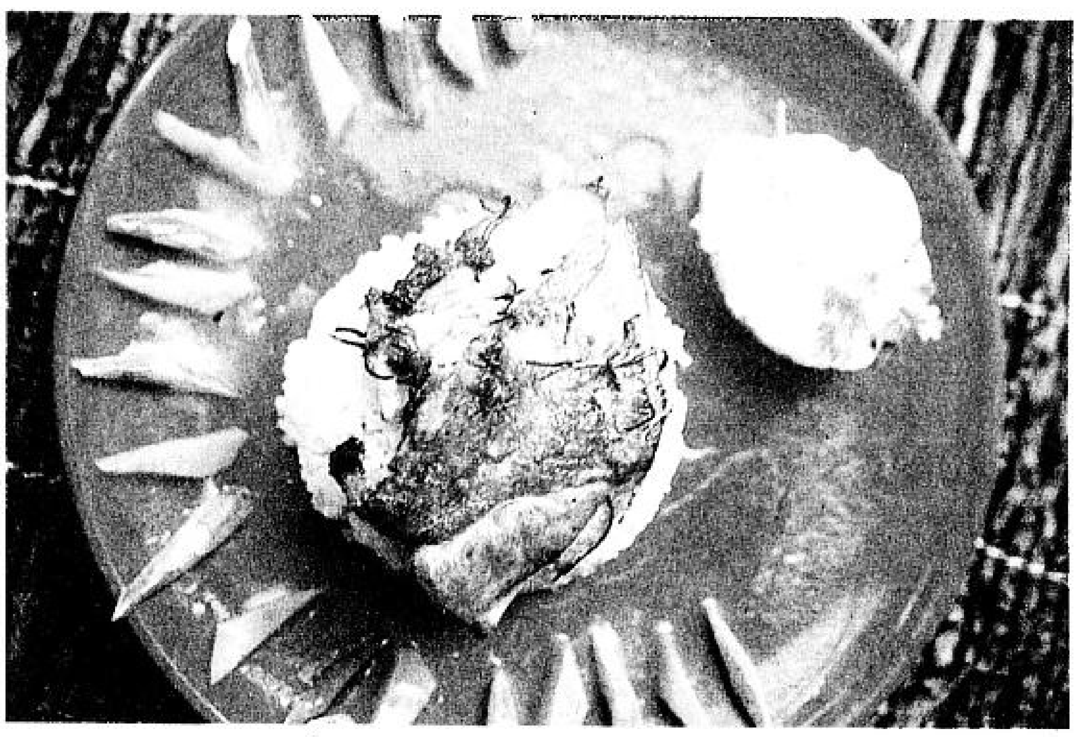
## Leave room for dessert

There are sandwiches and healthy fresh fruit shakes for those with small appetites. However, whichever dish you choose, make sure to leave room for some dessert. Café Juan Soy serves unbelievably good Gelato, which is authentic Italian ice cream made by the Salesians of Don Bosco. There is also the classic Apple Pie, which is topped with Parmesan cheese and excellent with Gelato. Plus, this is the only place in town that serves a "holy" dessert aptly called Holy Halo, which is a merry mix of local preserves topped with the famous Good Shepherd Ube Jam and Fruity Gelato plus a sprinkling of Angel Cookies.

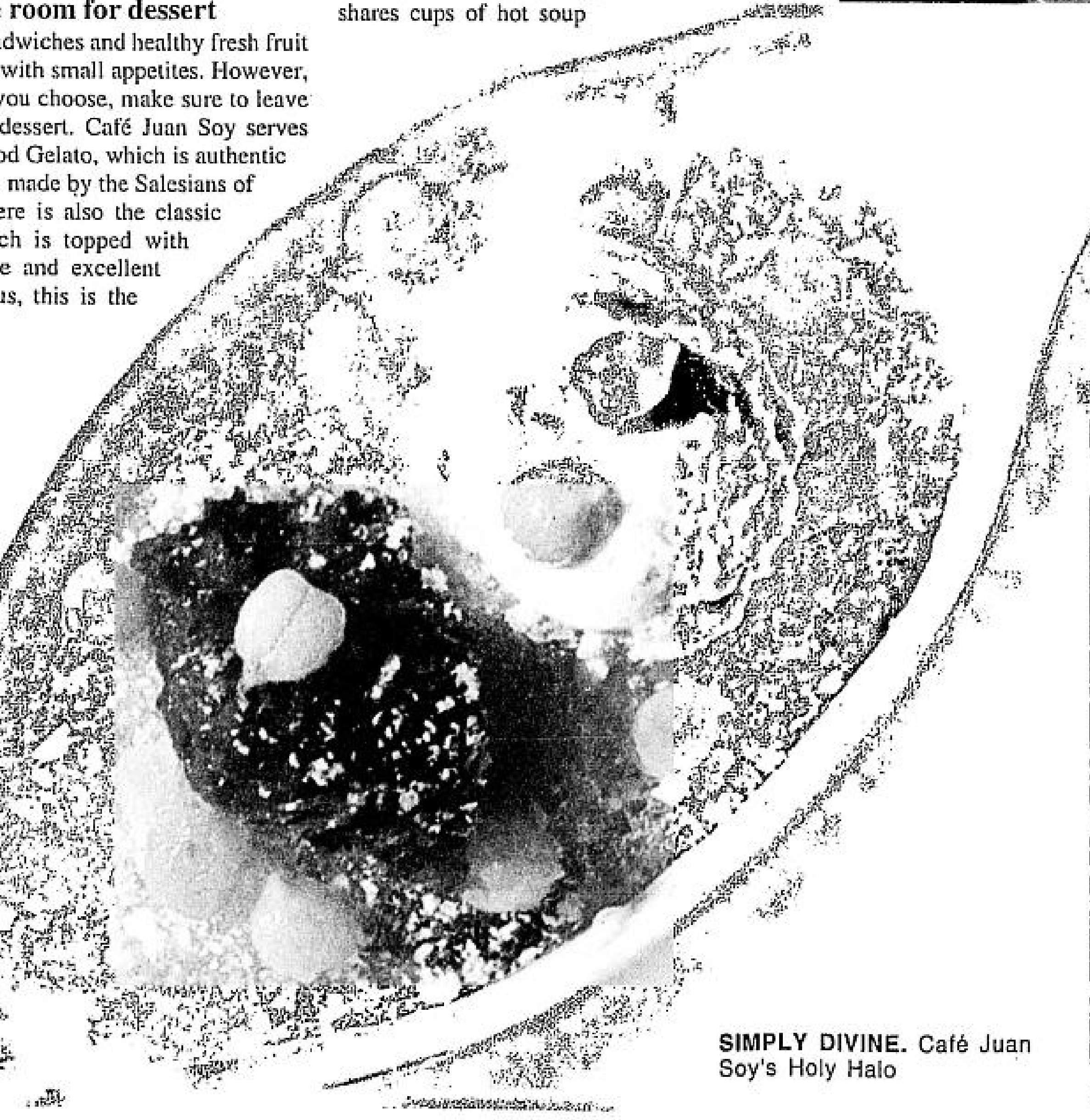
As if serving good food in comfy surroundings weren't enough, diners at Café Juan Soy will be glad to know that for every meal taken at the café, a portion is set aside for a project called Soup for the Soul.

The inspiration for Soup for the Soul was a family who used to live right outside the restaurant's door. "They had a baby boy on the eve of Café Juan Soy's blessing. The mother used to eke out a living selling cigarettes and the father worked odd construction jobs to keep the family together," Marge relates. "The project seeks to ease a little bit of the hunger among Manila's urban poor. Every 6 p.m., the café shares cups of hot soup with the indigents who live near the restaurant. "We don't want to worsen their condition by teaching them to become dependent on alms. We require them to help clean up and beautify Café Juan Soy's surroundings and in return, give them cash or something in kind." Whatever cash is collected goes into a revolving fund to support the Soup for the Soul project. Says Marge "Hopefully, one day we will be able to lay a feast for them—all the way down to dessert!"

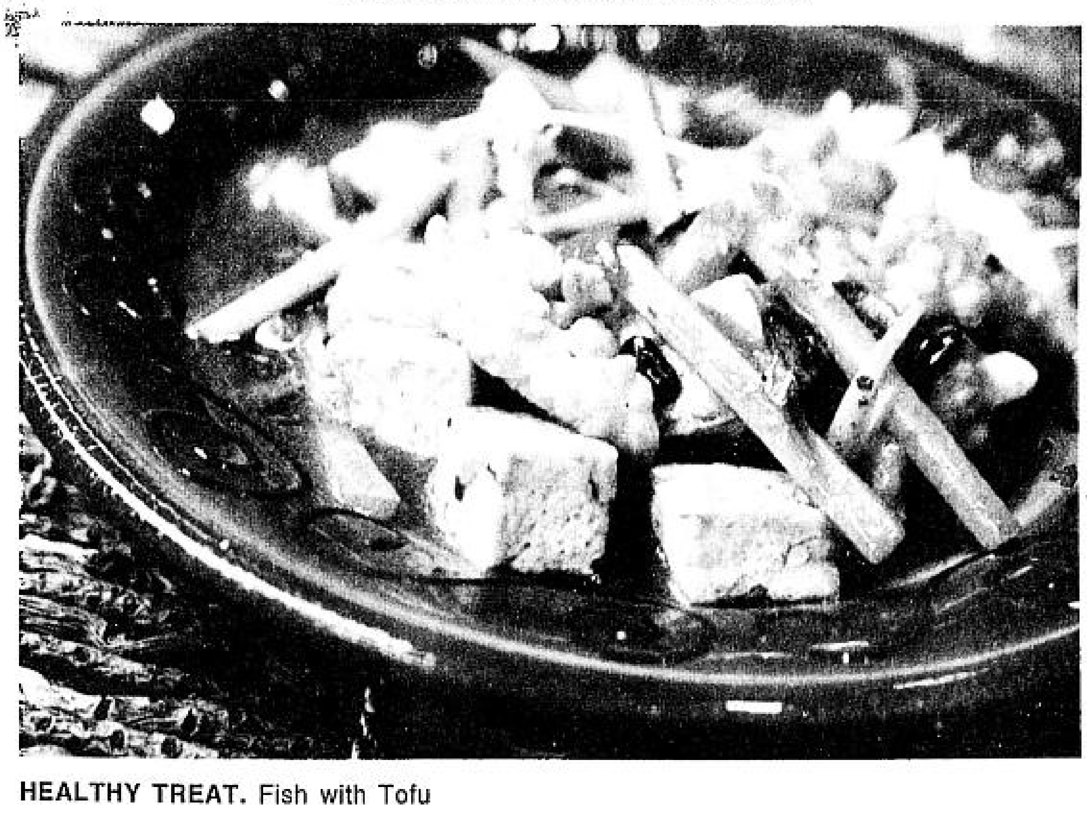
*E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph*



**LIGHT** and tender Chicken Rosemary



**SIMPLY DIVINE.** Café Juan Soy's Holy Halo



**HEALTHY TREAT.** Fish with Tofu

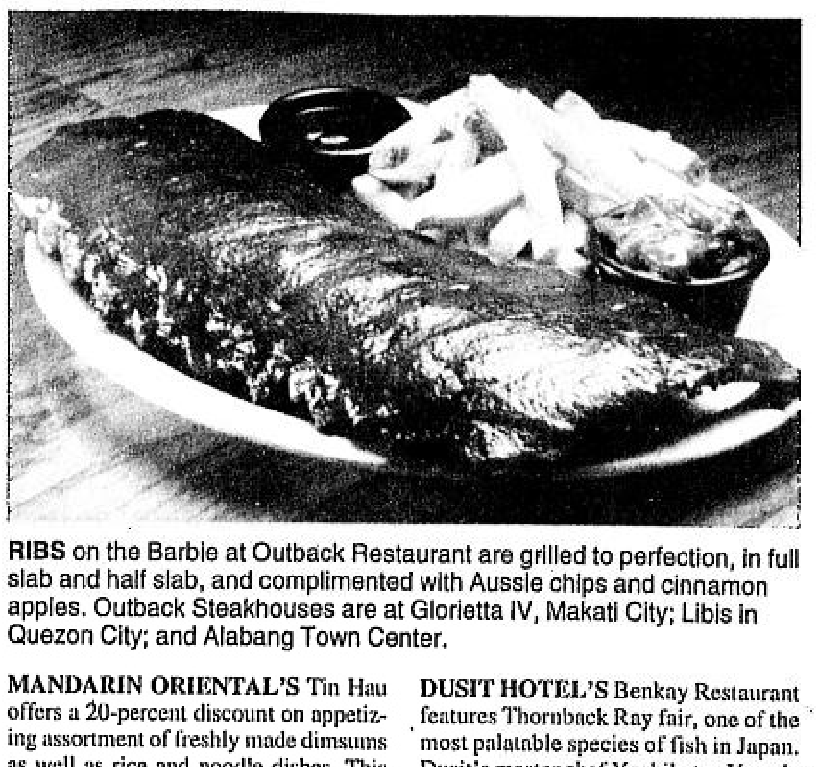
# *The best of Japanese cuisine at Saisaki*

## DINING OUT

**SAISAKI** presents a Japanese food festival dubbed "Japan's Best, Saisaki's Best," featuring 100 specialties until the holiday season. The food festival harvests all of the restaurant's thematic buffets of past seasons and the main food categories of Japanese cuisine plus a number of new and exciting features. The brimming buffet is made up of a vast selection of dishes that are prepared or cooked in different ways: Sushi, Sashimi, Maki, Temaki, Tempura, Sukiyaki, Noodles, Nimono, Yakimono, Teppanyaki, Agemono and many more. All-time favorite Japanese delicacies will also be served. Saisaki's branches are at Edsa, Pasay Road, West Avenue, SM Megamall, Glorietta 3 and Alabang Town Center. Call 892-3520, 818-1111 local 227, and 817-4471.

**SOUTH VILLA** features a selection of Hangzhou, Sichuan and Cantonese-inspired fares. For starters: cold appetizers like Jellyfish, Marinated Pork and Sweet Tomato. Then warm up with Szechuan Hot and Sour Soup and feast on Pork Flank with Sweet Vinegar, Steamed Sliced Abalone with Ham and Black Mushroom, plus get a treat with the Hangzhou Beggar Chicken. If you're a seafood lover, relish South Villa's Baked Prawns with Butter Cream Sauce, Steamed Fish with Crisp Bean Paste and Braised Sea Cucumber with Minced Pork and Hong Kong-style Spicy Fried Crab with Chili and Garlic. The all-you-can-order dinner promo is available 6-10 p.m., Mondays thru Fridays with 30 dishes to choose from. Also ongoing is the all-you-can-eat dimsum at 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. daily and 7:30 a.m. on Sundays with 40 varieties including congee, dumplings, buns and pastries. Call 725-0302 or 721-1355/6662.

**MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S** Island Café offers 20-percent discount on lunch and dinner buffet until Nov.15. The selection includes Italian pasta, Mediterranean salads, Chinese dimsum, Singaporean noodles, Japanese tempura and sashimi, Spanish *paella*, Continental dishes and many more. Savory carving specialties include US Prime Rib, Filipino Roast Suckling Pig *(lechon)*, Chinese Roasted Duck and Leg of Lamb. Call 840-0884.



**RIBS** on the Barbie at Outback Restaurant are grilled to perfection, in full slab and half slab, and complimented with Aussie chips and cinnamon apples. Outback Steakhouses are at Glorietta IV, Makati City; Libis in Quezon City; and Alabang Town Center.

**MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S** Tin Hau offers a 20-percent discount on appetizing assortment of freshly made dimsums as well as rice and noodle dishes. This offer is from Monday to Friday, 10:45 a.m.-12 noon. Regular à la carte menu prices apply from 11:30 a.m. onward. Call 750-8888, local 2422/2424.

**DUSIT HOTEL'S** Benkay Restaurant features Thornback Ray fair, one of the most palatable species of fish in Japan. Dusit's master chef Yoshikatsu Yasuda has prepared an authentic and delightful Thornback Ray dishes for the whole month of November. Three à la carte dishes are offered: Stewed Thornback Ray, Stewed Thornback Ray chef style and Deep-fried Thornback Ray with special sauce. Call 867-3333, local 3343 to 3344.

**MANILA GALLERIA SUITES** features a two-week festivity of international delights until Nov.10 at the Raphael Café Restaurant. Try the Beef Tenderloin with Jamaican Rum Glazed, Pan-Fried Sole Fillet with Caper Lemon Butter Sauce and Cauliflower Polemeisen Style. Taste the goodness of Lamb with Spinach and Heb Stew, Grilled Beefsteak with Tomato, Onion and Cheese, Stuffed Cabbage in Tomato Sauce, and Vol-Au-Vent with Chicken Rag-out. Call 633-7111, local 7416/7440.

**PUMPKIN** Fruit Cake, Manila Midtown Hotel's special November cake, is pumpkin-flavored with rich fruit filling in the middle and topped with sweet icing and chocolate shavings. Available at Maxim's Pastry Shop. Call 526-7001, local 5661.

# Friday's Boracay hosts French cooking demo

THE ISLAND paradise of Boracay in the northern tip of Panay Island will have its 15 minutes of fame when it is featured as the locale of a film documentary on authentic French cuisine by the internationally renowned Le Cordon Bleu of Paris.

The documentary, to be produced for local and international release by the Department of Tourism with the International Education Specialists of Manila, features Le Cordon Bleu Paris master chefs John Power and Neil Paton who will show off their culinary skills before food lovers during the demonstration session at Friday's Boracay resort from Nov. 10-12.

For this extraordinary event, Friday's has pulled all stops in showcasing its world-class facilities and amenities at the northern end of the White Beach, the finest part of the 4-km stretch of powder-white sand that has made Boracay world-famous.

Power and Paton—who were flown in from Paris by Air France—heads a contingent of executives of Inter-Ed, DOT officials and a crew of "Lakbay TV" who will be treated to the traditional beach water welcome consisting of shell necklaces and "Four Seasons" cocktails before being ushered into some of the 34 first-class native cottage-style rooms.

The film will show Power and Paton as they conduct simultaneous cuisine and patisserie demonstrations for culinary arts students, chefs/cooks, hotel industry professionals and food lovers from the region.

In each session, the two respected chefs will highlight their culinary instructions with their preparation and demonstration of main dishes, desserts and pastries, supported with detailed explanations as the recipes unfold.

For the second leg of the culinary show, the Le Cordon Bleu team shall proceed by Air Philippines to three other locations in the South: The Barcelo Pearl Farm Island Resort in Davao (Nov. 13-14), Asturias Hotel in Puerto Princesa City (Nov. 15-16) and Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort Hotel in Cebu City (Nov. 16-18).

The 12-day culinary event kicked off with the opening sessions on Nov. 7-9 at Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

By showcasing the culinary training activities of a world-famous institution such as Le Cordon Bleu Paris amid the exotic ambiance of the country's top tourist attractions, the film documentary aims to promote the Philippines not only as a world-class location for a culinary adventure but as an attractive, pleasant and safe tourist destination.

The 45-minute documentary hopes to draw wide local and international interest and attention on the cosmopolitan ambiance of Metro Manila, the powder-white sand in Boracay, the tropical fruits and flowers in Davao, and the crystal beaches in Palawan and Cebu—the locations of choice for the demonstrations.

Power and Paton, who are acknowledged for their high level of culinary expertise, shall demonstrate the adaptability of the culinary techniques of Le Cordon Bleu Paris to Filipino regional cuisine by tapping the quality, range and availability of fresh produce in these areas.

Limited seats are available during the demonstration sessions, in which participants shall be encouraged to come in their kitchen uniforms and be prepared to participate in the demonstrations.

The participation fee is kept to a minimum for the demonstration and the professional training for chefs, inclusive of the cost of the prestigious Certificate D' Attendance.

Call Inter-Ed at 819-1001/02, or visit its office at 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

**CLAUDETTE'S,** the place where you can find the best New York cheesecake and moist chocolate cake in town, recently opened an outlet at the lobby of China Bistro Libis (in front of Eastwood City). Those with a perennial sweet tooth and a taste for the finer things in life will love Claudette's sumptuous creations like the Dolly Sin, Carrot Walnut Cake, Chocolate Tiramisu, Blueberry Cheesecake, Strawberry Cream Cake and Mango Mousse. Claudette's main branch is on Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 638-0566 to 69.

# Healthy eating with the brown bag

WITH THE RISING cost of living, it is no surprise that the good old brown bag is back in schools and offices. But the brown bag need not be an unhealthy combination of whatever is available in the fridge. As it celebrates 13 years of fine food and healthy living, Cravings offers tips on making the brown bag's comeback into an interesting and nutritious lunch and snack experience.

- Increase your diet variety. A brown bag is not just about sandwiches. Try packing some fresh fruits, salads, pasta or rice combos. Combine tuna, for example, with some white beans, fresh basil and sun-dried tomatoes for an unusual and flavorful salad. If you want to practice your salad picking, consider a trip through the Cravings Salad Bar for vegetable combos or try a new pasta creation, Longganiza with Spiced Cream Sauce.
- Fill it up with fiber. Humans need roughage and dietary fiber is found in whole grain cereals, breads, vegetables and fruits. Soluble fiber, which can dissolve in water, may help lower blood cholesterol when part of a low-fat diet. It has also been recommended to control blood sugar levels in some diabetics, too. Insoluble fiber, on the other hand, promotes regularity and has the potential to reduce risks of colon and rectal cancers. Fresh or even dried fruits are better than choosing complicated fruit desserts that may be loaded with sugar.
- Check your bread. While the usual white bread has its merits, check on bread package labels for fortified or seven-grade bread. This type of bread lowers your cholesterol level and also cuts the risk of colon cancer. Also recommended are whole wheat, English muffins, bagels, rice cakes, bread sticks and pita bread. For more bread choices, you can check out the Cravings bakery counters for wheat bread to go and other freshly baked goodies.
- Go meatless at least twice a week. Instead of meat and poultry, try trading it for beans, grains, vegetables, fruits, fish and other seafood. Go easy on margarine and mayonnaise though. Vinegar-based sauces would be the lighter alternative.
- Dress down on the sauces. For turkey or chicken sandwiches, dab some honey mustard dressing instead of fat-laden mayonnaise. Try to mix some tuna with jarred Mexican salsa, both readily available at your neighborhood grocery. Cravings now offers must-try panini selections that combine porkloin and grilled vegetables with tasty boursin spread. Bread selections can make sandwiches more interesting and tasty.
- Spice up a loved one's brown bag. You can have fun with brown bags and think of how you can make both a pleasing meal and presentation. Sandwiches and meat pieces can be sliced into shapes. Wrap sandwiches or utensils with colored napkins. Or tuck an i-love-you note, something that your loved one surely cannot get from a vending machine. Cravings Restaurants and Cafés are located at Katipunan Avenue, Edsa Shangri-La Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Festival Mall, Wilson Street in Greenhills, Asturias and Greenbelt Mall.

# New chix in town

GREENWICH has created fried chicken that satisfies the Pinoy's craving for a truly crispy and juicy fried chicken.

For flavor, Greenwich Crispy Fried Chicken is dipped in specially flavored mixes, ingredients of which are all proprietary to Greenwich. And to preserve the juiciness of the chicken meat underneath, it is fried at a standard time and temperature—the result of which is a crisp, golden bite into tender and juicy chicken meat. Greenwich Crispy Fried Chicken also comes with mushroom gravy.

The Pinoy's all-time favorite, all-occasion treat is now available in three affordable chicken lunch treats from Greenwich: one-piece Chicken Meal, two-piece Chicken Meal and the Pasta Chicken Plate which consists of one-piece Chicken, So Meaty Spaghetti, Garlic Stix and a regular soft drink.

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3. The Winner will be notified via text that reads: "*Congratulations! You just won P20,000 from Touch Mobile...*" The Winner will also be notified through a phone call from the **Touch Mobile P20,000 Everyday Raffle** team, who will ask for their name and address. They will also be notified through registered mail. Winners for the week will be announced in print-ads.
4. Winners may claim their prizes after: 5 working days for Metro Manila winners & 7 working days for provincial winners. (If the raffle date falls on a weekend or a holiday, count 5 or 7 days from the next working day) Winners may claim their prizes during working days only (Monday-Friday).
5. To claim their prizes, Winners should personally bring their Touch Mobile cell phone with the winning mobile number, a valid ID and the mailed notice to either:
   - Metro Manila Wingers- Globe Telecom Treasury Cashier at the 2F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong city.
   - Or, in the case of Provincial winners - cheques will be sent to the cashier of the Globe Telecom Business Center nearest to the winner as indicated in the registered mail.
6. Prizes that remain unclaimed after 60 days from receipts of notice will be forfeited with prior DTI approval.
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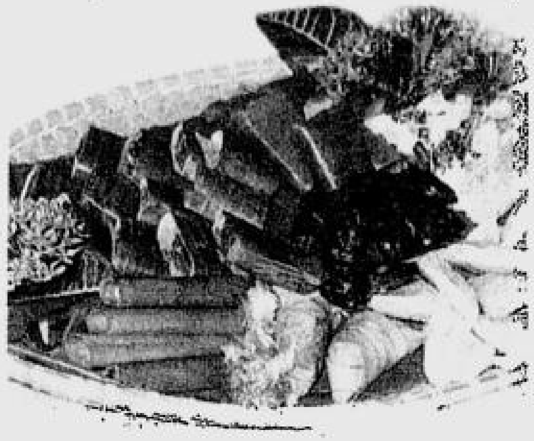
# LIFESTYLE



**ASSORTED** *kakanin* from the Exchange: *ibus*, *panara* and *baye-baye* in the foreground

# A foodie's journey home

**IN GOOD TASTE**

*Doreen G. Fernandez*

SILAY City, Negros Occidental, my hometown, is 14 kilometers from Bacolod City, to which Silaynons have always gone to shop, to watch movies, to have piano lessons, to transact most business, to use the airport. In Silay we have lived, grown up among the old houses, the plaza and the church—and eaten the food which Silay is famous for.

**El Ideal.** In it, for example, is El Ideal Bakery on Rizal Street, which is at least 80 years old, and still bakes the Molo biscuits (our Iloilo heritage) like *quinamunsil*, *sinambag*, *bizcocho de cana*, *bizcocho Principe*, *banadas*, *galletas*, *paciencia*, *masa podrida* and many others, as well as a unique bread called *pandeseosa* (desirable bread, my mother suggests it means). Now it also supplies a well-known guapple pie.

**The Exchange.** On my first morning, I went to the market to watch the Exchange. This is a meeting of the *kalan-unon (kakanin)* makers with goods for vending that day: *lumpiang ubod*, *empanada*, *panara*, *puto lanson*, *puto* Manapla, *but-ong*, *ibus*, *inday-inday*, *baye-baye*, *butong-butong* candies with brown sugar and sesame seed, *pinasugbo*, *bicho-bicho*, *lubid-lubid*, *ibus mais*, *ibus turron*, *bukayo* and the famous *piaya* among them.

> Ilonggo food is hearty, homegrown and healthy, drawn from the landscape—land and waters, fields and forests

The vendors exchange goods, pack them in vending boxes or baskets, and hop on buses which take them to Bacolod and their selling beats in schools, offices, beauty parlors, on the ferry to Iloilo. They return in the afternoon to pay each other from the earnings, which also provide capital for the next day.

Time was when the vendors circulated only in Silay, round baskets on their heads, bearing the products of the best elite cooks in town—Lacsons, Locsins, Valencias, Legaspis. We called them when we came in from Manila, when we had guests, or to supply *mahjong* and *monte* players who, winning or losing, did not want to leave the gaming table, for reasons of luck. These Silay ladies and their cooks may now be gone or retired; the exchange cooks are the next rank, who learned from them and now supply each other and maintain an organization.

**Breakfast.** One memorable breakfast was with Maget and Joe Marie Locsin, with everything homemade: the uncased *chorizo* with a Bilbao flavor from her mother's recipe; little dried shrimps, fried; *binuro nga bilong-bilong* (moonfish); and of course, *calo-calo* (fried rice) of fragrant Magsanaya, organically grown by Lina Locsin Ledesma, my godmother.

**The Governor's Treat.** A uniquely delicious day was spent in Sagay City, hometown of Gov. Joseph Maranon, Rep. Freddie Maranon and their

A FOODIE/ p.D3

**IN CENTER:** *piaya*, around it is *butong-butong*

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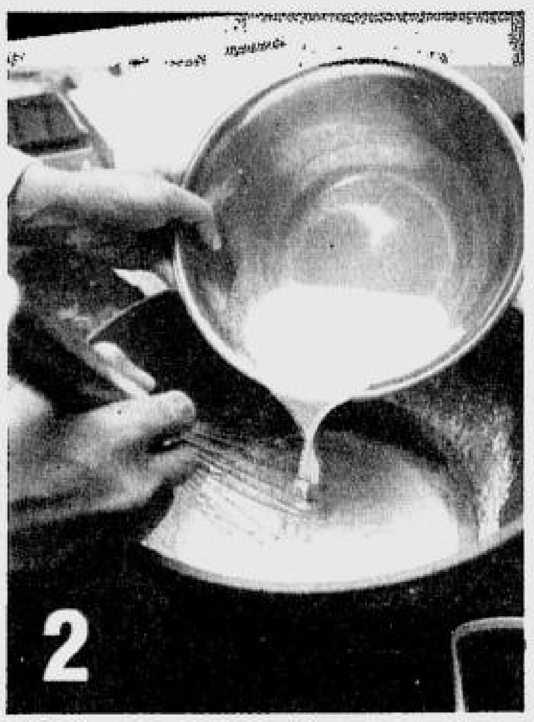
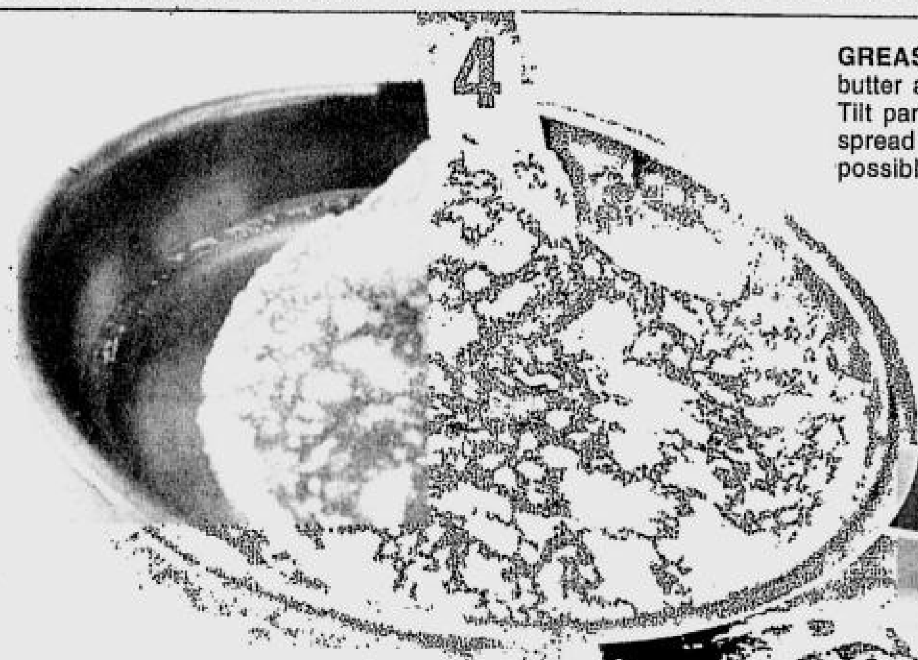


**ADD** flour, sugar and salt.

**IN A SEPARATE** bowl, mix together milk, melted butter and vanilla and add into the egg mixture. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. (Optional: Add ½ c of milk if mixture is too thick.)



**GREASE** Teflon pan with butter and pour in the batter. Tilt pan in a circular motion to spread the batter as thinly as possible. Set aside.

**IN ANOTHER** pan, caramelize or heat sugar until light brown.

# Crêpes without the creeps

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Mike Alquinto

**ADD pizzazz to your dining table with delicate crêpes filled with fruit slices. As Chef Pixie Sevilla aptly puts it, "Crêpes make a very light, uncomplicated ending to a memorable meal." She is, of course, the same Pixie behind the Forget Me Not cakes (tel. 723-2776).**

**STEP BY STEP**

Crêpes are basically a mixture of flour, eggs, milk and butter. Whole eggs are blended with the flour and enough milk is added to produce a smooth, thin batter. Melted butter added to the mixture helps the cooked crêpes to slide easily from the pan.

According to Sevilla, two important things determine the perfection of your crêpes. First is the batter. Make sure the batter is smooth and lump-free. Second is the pan. It has to be a quality nonstick frying pan or else forget it. There's no way you'll come up with wafer-thin wonders and you'll only end up feeling frustrated.

You may opt to use a 6-inch or 9-inch diameter Teflon pan. Wipe the surface of a good quality nonstick pan with butter and place over low fire. Pour a scant cup of batter into the pan. Quickly tilt from side to side to completely cover the surface of the pan with crêpe batter. Cook until the edges of the crêpe begin to curl up or look a bit brownish.

As most cooks have attested to, do not expect the first crêpe or two of any batch to be perfect. Consider them as your trial pieces to help you estimate the quantity of the batter needed and the precise degree of the heat.

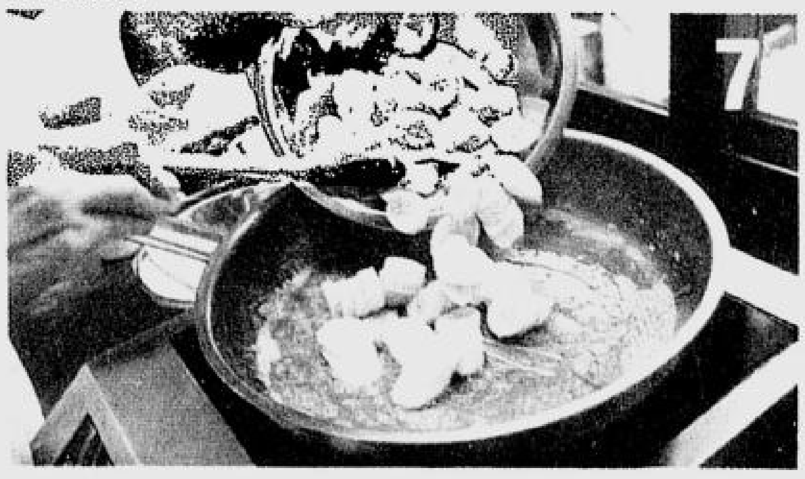
For the filling, you can roll crêpes around a fruit, custard or soufflé filling. You can virtually put anything you desire to eat. The most popular are mangoes, blueberries, strawberries, cheese, ice cream and chocolate mousse. For this recipe, Pixie creates a more tropical filling with caramelized banana-flavored with rum.

*For crêpes:*
6 eggs
1½ c flour
3 tbsp sugar
½ tsp salt
1 ½ c fresh milk
2 tbsp melted butter
1 tsp vanilla
½ c milk

*For filing:*
½ c sugar
¼ c butter
1 kg ripe bananas, sliced into rounds
Rum

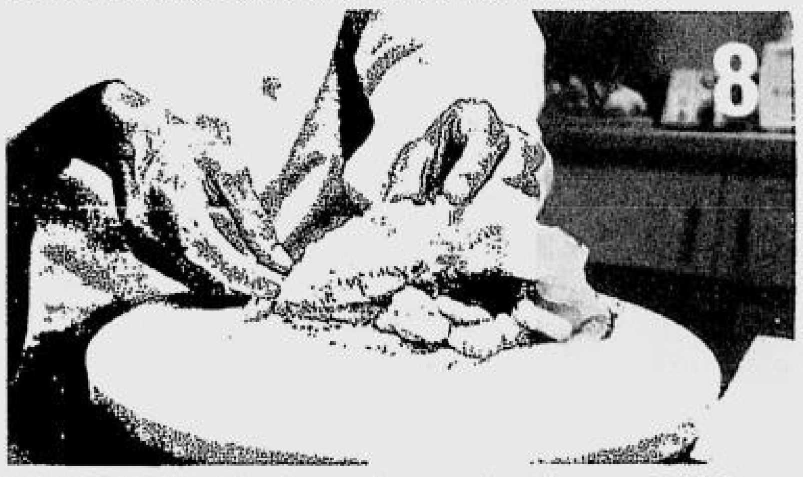
**IN A MIXING** bowl, beat eggs until lemon color.

**ADD** butter.



**ADD** the bananas. Cook for a minute, then add the rum.

**MOUTH-WATERING** crêpes with caramelized banana filling



**TO ASSEMBLE,** fill crêpes with caramelized banana. Fold the crêpe over the filling. Top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup and nuts. Serve the crêpes warm.

# *Crab mentality*

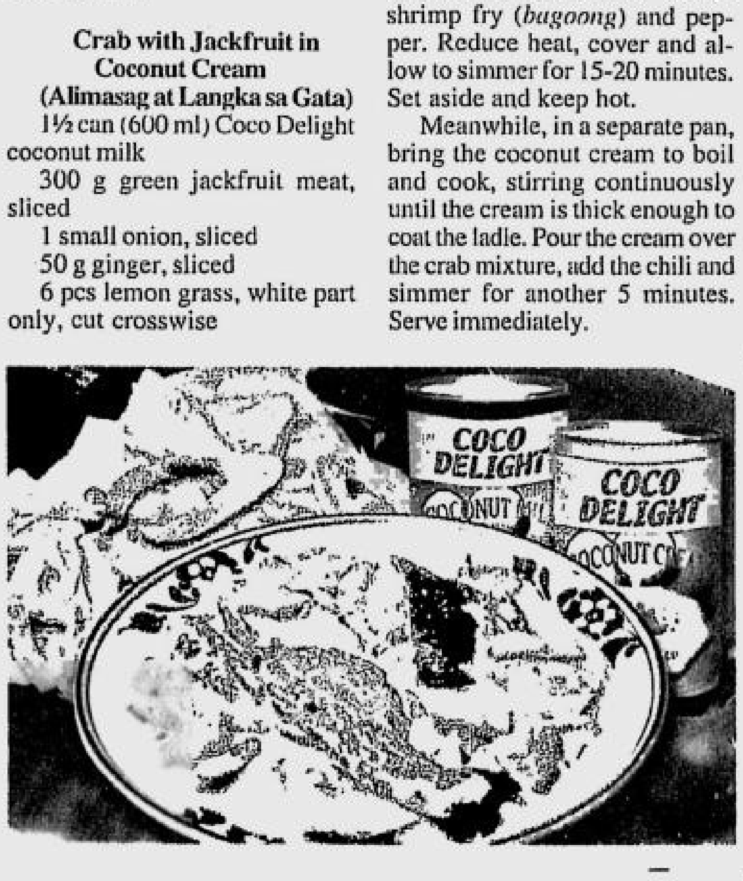
CRABS have constantly challenged the skills of the more creative and innovative cook to go beyond conventions and develop a new concoction. This "crab mentality" has inspired Florence Foods Corp. to test the versatility of the crab by coming up with Crab with Jackfruit in Coconut Milk, spiced by its flagship ingredients, Florence salted shrimp fry and Coco Delight coconut milk and Coco Delight coconut cream.

### Crab with Jackfruit in Coconut Cream
### (Alimasag at Langka sa Gata)

1½ can (600 ml) Coco Delight coconut milk
300 g green jackfruit meat, sliced
1 small onion, sliced
50 g ginger, sliced
6 pcs lemon grass, white part only, cut crosswise
2 tsp minced garlic
1 kg crabs, quartered
Florence salted shrimp fry and pepper to taste
1 can (400 ml) Coco Delight coconut cream (*kakang gata*)
100 g green chili

Place the coconut milk, jackfruit, onion, ginger, lemon grass and garlic in a casserole and boil over a moderate heat for 10 minutes. Add the crabs and season to taste with salted shrimp fry (*bagoong*) and pepper. Reduce heat, cover and allow to simmer for 15-20 minutes. Set aside and keep hot.

Meanwhile, in a separate pan, bring the coconut cream to boil and cook, stirring continuously until the cream is thick enough to coat the ladle. Pour the cream over the crab mixture, add the chili and simmer for another 5 minutes. Serve immediately.

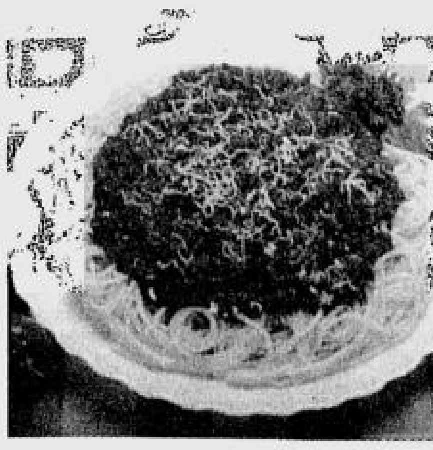


# Princely way to prepare pasta

THE "À LA PRINCE" special appetizer pasta dish is prepared using poached salmon and turkey breasts (brushed with Teriyaki Sauce). The preparation includes a mixture of aromatic solution which contains dry white wine, various herbs to lend a flavorful bouquet to the pasta.

### Spaghettini à la Prince

240 g Federici Spaghettini
20 g unsalted butter
1 tbsp Pietro Coricelli Extra Virgin Olive oil
1 tbsp pesto
3 salmon steaks cut aproximately ½-cm thick
50 g turkey or chicken breasts (brushed with Teriyaki Sauce)
3 dcl dry white wine
1 calamansi
2 g basil
1 g thyme
Salt and ground black pepper to taste
30 g peeled tomatoes
10 g unsalted butter
Hunt's All-Natural peeled tomatoes
1 tbsp Jolly tomato paste
8 pcs (halved) Doña Maria Pitted Olives
40 g broccoli florets (half boiled)
20 g fresh Parmesan cheese



Bring water to simmer and boil the Federici Spaghettini in a cooking pot. Add 1 tbsp Pietro Coricelli olive oil and a pinch of salt. Cook until al dente. Strain and dip into cold water. Set aside.

In a saucepan, on low heat, melt the butter together with the Pietro Coricelli olive oil and pesto and fry slowly the turkey/chicken breasts with cover until cooked.

Remove cover and breasts and set aside. Add the white wine, calamansi (pressed/squeezed), basil, thyme and heat until simmering. Cut the breasts into slices. Set aside.

Poach the salmon steaks until cooked (approximately 6 minutes). Remove the salmon steaks and set aside until cool. Remove skin and bone and separate to form large flakes.

In a separate frying pan on low heat, add butter, Hunt's All-Natural peeled tomatoes, Jolly tomato paste, seasoning, Doña Maria pitted olives and broccoli florets. Add the aromatic solution (but take out the skin/pieces of calamansi). Bring to heat and add the salmon flakes and strips of breast.

In a separate pot, boil water and immerse spaghettini for 15 seconds. Remove and strain.

Portion onto plates and cover with "Á la Prince" sauce. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Garnish with a pinch of finely chopped parsley and serve hot.

# Gelatin lovers, this one's for you

*PANNA cotta,* or cooked cream in English, is a luscious Italian specialty gaining fame worldwide. The egg-based dessert was inspired by the classic Italian crème brûlèe. It originally started in Piedmont, a region on the northern border of Italy, where they also invented the apple strudel some 400 years ago.

The skill to making this delectable dessert is getting it to set without becoming too soggy, so just the right amount of gelatin should be used.

To bring the dessert to the consistency it should achieve, just like the super thick cream of Piedmont's dairy products, baking expert Heny Sison uses Nestlé Fresh Milk and Nestlé Whipping Cream.

### Panna Cotta con Caramello

2 tbsps unflavored gelatin
4 c Nestlé Fresh Milk
2 c Nestlé Whipping Cream
½ c sugar
¾ c sugar
½ c butter
1 c Nestlé Whipping Cream for the caramel

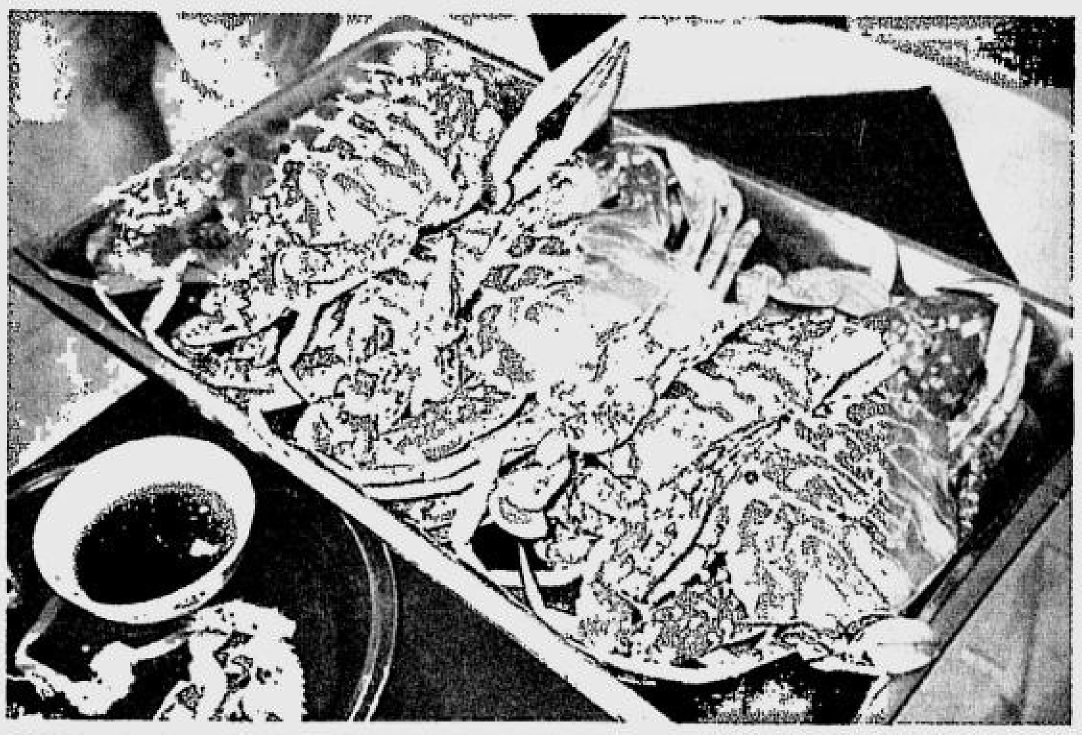
Chefs in trendy restaurants dress up their *panna cotta* with complicated sauces and other garnishes. You can make your own delicious version by adding chocolate or caramel. You can even turn the Italian favorite into a tropical treat by adding fresh fruits like cherries or strawberries. It's your choice.

**Procedure:**

- In a thick saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over 2 cups of milk and let it stand to soak for 5 minutes, to soften.
- Stir well over low heat until the gelatin dissolves completely about 5 minutes.
- Stir in the remaining milk, cream and sugar. Cool to simmer, or until you see bubbles around the sides of the pan.
- Remove from heat. Let it cool a little, pour into 12½ cup custard cup. Refrigerate; cover with a sheet of wax paper until firm. Serve cold. Drizzle with caramel sauce.

*Caramel sauce:*

- Pour sugar into a thick saucepan and cook on a medium fire. When the sugar begins to melt, stir gently with a spoon. Watch closely as the sugar melts. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add butter, then the cream. Stir gently until the caramel is dissolved.



GIANT crabs from Sagay

# A foodie's journey home

(From page D1)

sisters Sonia Sarrosa and the late Sophie Cueva—all our school day friends. Breakfast was at the Balay Kauswagan Training Center, where two seminars were ongoing, one for the town's English teachers, another for policemen.

Breakfast included peeled prime *rambutan* and sweet *lanzones* grown on the Governor's farm, plus scrambled eggs, long and short pork sausages, and *pinakas nga danggit*—fresh from the sea, unsalted, deboned—also from the Governor's home stock; plus fresh cold milk from his feeding program for children, and of course mangoes and *ibus (suman)*.

Both breakfast and lunch were cooked by Enteng Lobaton, whom I had met while doing *kinilaw* research, when he was the town's best *kinilaw* maker, and had a small fried chicken stall. Now he has two successful restaurants, one in Bacolod, called Enteng Special, staffed by his college-age children.

There was, of course, the best *kinilaw* in the country: live crab, *imbao* clams, *lukot*, *tanguingue* and giant clam from the clear waters surrounding (the Maranons do an ecology watch of the waters, and maintain a Marine Reserve). All were fresh and sweet, each with a different dipping sauce. Then Enteng's Sagay Special of clams, rock lobsters, crabs, squid and prawns; chicken *inasal* (spit-roasted) with a secret sauce; *dinuguan*, steamed *lapu-lapu* and giant steamed crabs.

The festive center, as in most Philippine fiestas, was the *lechon*, which Ilonggos stuff with *tanglad* (lemon grass). Within the *lechon* belly Enteng had hidden a whole chicken, which steamed within, surrounded by *tanglad*, and was unbelievably tender and fragrant. For dessert, more mangoes and *ibus*, lanzones and *atis*. A delicious and very healthy lunch.

The Sagay market, landscaped and planted like a garden, and the Silay market being rebuilt, made it possible to revisit vegetables long unseen, like *kuli-tis* (amaranth) and *batuan* (Garcinia marella); the delicate sea creature called *butitis*, and a plethora of dried fish (*guma-aa, uga balingon, gusaw*, etc.) delicious for breakfast, because only lightly salted. All attested to the bounty of the waters, and the wisdom of preserving the excess harvest for another day.

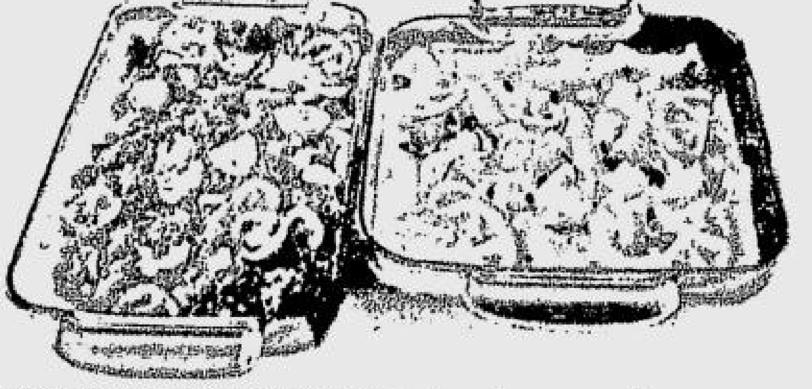
Food-shopping in comfort could also be done at Pendy's (*dulce gatas, pinasugbo*, all sizes of *piaya*) and the showroom of Negros products (*guinamus, tinabal*, durian chips, etc., many from ECJ (E. Cojuangco Jr.) farms.

**At Home.** Right in my brother's home, my sister-in-law Lyn, who runs both the Balay Negrense and Negros museums, kept bringing in other foods of memory. From great cook Maget Gaston Locsin: *paklay* (beef or goat innards soured with *balimbing* and pineapple), my father's favorite dish; *bindonggo* (tripe) cooked with *batuan*; Caldo Gallego, *pansit molo* with *bizcocho*, *taba ng talangka*. From Sir Restaurant across the street, *paksiw nga alimusan* (sea catfish) with guava leaves, and brown seaweed salad. From cook Virgie, *bas-uy*, my father's classic Ilonggo breakfast, with fresh steamed shrimps, scrambled eggs and *calo-calo*; a dish of *ubad* (banana pith), *kadyos* (pigeon pea), chicken and *sili* leaves; *lamayo nga alimusan* (salted slices dried for only a day), the *calo-calo bihon* of Silay with *patola*; *bagongon* with *gabi* and *gata*.

**Manukan Country.** One night we visited the Manukan stalls in Bacolod, and had our fill of *inasal* (skewered, *tuba*-vinegar-marinated, *achuete*-colored) chicken parts: tail, wing, liver, heart, cheeks, intestines, legs, tasty even without the self-mixed dip.

**Ilonggo food, in sum.** It is hearty, homegrown and healthy food. Ilonggo food is drawn from the landscape—land and waters, fields and forests. The dominant crop, sugar, is not eaten in its raw form (although it is chewed, on or just off the field), but provides the under-layer of sweetness. Through its molasses, muscovado, brown and white sugar it influences the sweets and delicacies. From it too comes the Ilonggo flavor principle: not aggressively sour, sweet or bitter, but mild and *manamis-namis*, like young coconut in *binacol* soup; like the dulcet cadences of Ilonggo speech, like the rich honey of the voice of the late Silaynon mezzo-soprano, Conchita Gaston.

It is pleasure and privilege to have grown up in a small town, home of so much good slow food—natural, traditional, homegrown and handcrafted—and so much sweetness and grace.



*KINILAW nga lukot* and *kinilaw nga tanguingue sa gata*

ENTENG Lobaton, his children and the *lechon* stuffed with *tanglad* and a whole chicken

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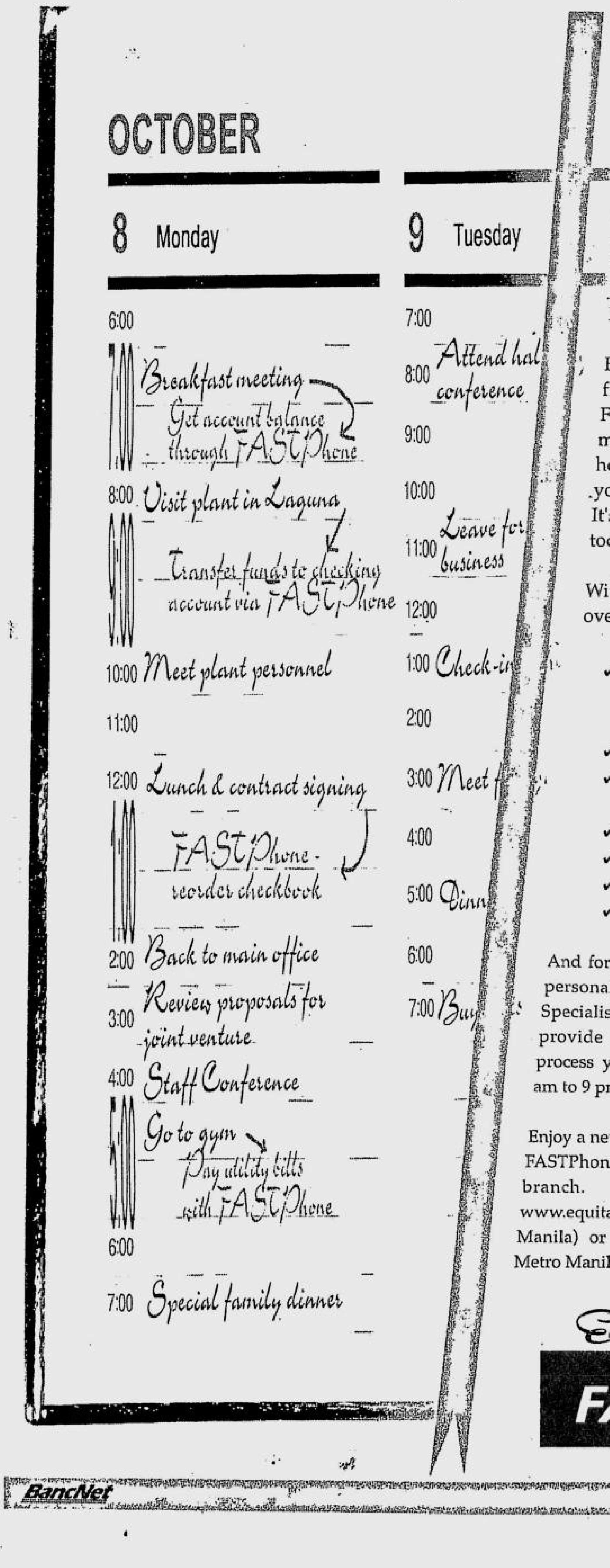

OCTOBER
8 Monday
6:00
7:00 Breakfast meeting
Get account balance through FASTPhone
8:00 Visit plant in Laguna
9:00
Transfer funds to checking account via FASTPhone
10:00 Meet plant personnel
11:00
12:00 Lunch & contract signing
1:00
FASTPhone - reorder checkbook
2:00 Back to main office
3:00 Review proposals for joint venture
4:00 Staff Conference
5:00 Go to gym
Pay utility bills with FASTPhone
6:00
7:00 Special family dinner
9 Tuesday
7:00
8:00 Attend hal conference
9:00
10:00
11:00 Leave for business
12:00
1:00 Check-in
2:00
3:00 Meet
4:00
5:00 Dinn
6:00
7:00 Buy

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# A sampling of festive dishes

FOURTEEN choices in one *bilao*

KARE-KARE

BARRIO Fiesta, the authority when it comes to excellent Filipino fiesta fare for the last 43 years, is celebrating its anniversary this month with a special promo titled "Combo Diskwento." Pay only P399 for both of two Barrio Fiesta offerings: Kare-Kare and Mama Chit's Sampler. Named after Barrio Fiesta founder Mama Chit Evangelista, Mama Chit's Sampler brings together festive dishes in one *bilao*. Instead of just one dish, you get 14: the Barrio Fiesta Lechon Kawali, Fried Spareribs, Fried Hito, Grilled Bangus and Hipon, Chicken, Fried Vegetable Lumpia, Lumpiang Shanghai, Fried Potatoes, Tokwa, Onion Rings, Grilled Talong, Kamatis and Fried Banana plus different sauces and condiments.

Aside from these two "Combo Diskwento" meals, avail of the other delicious Barrio Fiesta dishes, such as Sizzling Sisig (with or without Aligue), Chicken and Pork Adobo, the Barrio Fiesta Rice or Native Paella, the Crispy Fried Spareribs or the Crispy Pata. If you are not much of a meat eater, you can try their many fish and seafood specialties.

Barrio Fiesta branches are located at Caloocan, SM City Fairview, West Avenue, SM City North Edsa, Ali Mall, Greenhills, Marcos Highway, Makati Avenue, Maria Orosa, UN Avenue, Las Piñas, SM Southmall, SM Bacoor, SM City Cebu, Baguio and in the United States, in San Francisco, Milpitas and Glendale, California.

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

HOLIDAY GIVEAWAYS, BUSINESS GOODIES & MORE

Loads and loads of hearty food giveaways for loved ones plus recipes to start up your own business are in store from November to December. Fruitcakes, Pastillas, Simbang Gabi delights, Christmas party fare and lots more. Check out the schedule below for an enjoyable holiday and a prosperous new year.

*Fruitcakes Galore, etc.*: Nov. 10 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dark Fruitcake, Light Fruitcake, Golden Fruitcake, Chocolate Fruitcke including costing. Bonus: . Rum Cake. . P600.
*Pastillas, Atbp.*: Nov 10 (Sat) 1:30 -5 p.m. Pastillas de Leche, Macapuno, Mani, Langka, Pulvoron, Yema, Almond Roca with packaging and costing. P600.
*Japanese Cooking*: Nov. 17 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Miso Soup, Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, and 7 different types of sushi. P750.
*Simbang Gabi Specials*: Nov. 17 (Sat) 1:30 -5 p.m. Cuchinta, Sapin-Sapin, Bibingkang Malagkit, Bibingkang Cassava. Bonus: Maya Bibingka and Special Ensaymada. P600.
*Burgers and Potatoes Combo*: Nov. 24 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Burger Dogs, Corny Tuna Burger, Crusted Beef Burgers, Salisbury Steak, Beef Boulette Burgers; Magic Potato Croquettes, Dauphine Potatoes; Italian Buttered Marble Potatoes, Easy Flavored French Fries, Potato Au Gratin. Bonus: Mashed Potato. P 600
*Holiday Cookies & Bars*: Nov. 24 (Sat) 1:30 -5 p.m. Chocolate Chip Cookies, Crinkles, Butterscotch Bar, Food for the Gods, Cappucino Thins, Chocolate Refrigerator Cookies. P500.
*Pasta Cooking*: Dec. 1 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lasagna, Chicken Cannelloni. assorted pasta dishes and sauces (Garlic Fettucini, Carbonara, Putanesca, Pesto and Negra). Bonus: homemade pasta making. P600
*Baking with Institutional Mixes*: Dec. 1 (Sat) 1:30 -5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road), Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Pretzel,Hotdog on Stick, Mango Samurai, Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. Includes lecture on cost profit analysis. P500.

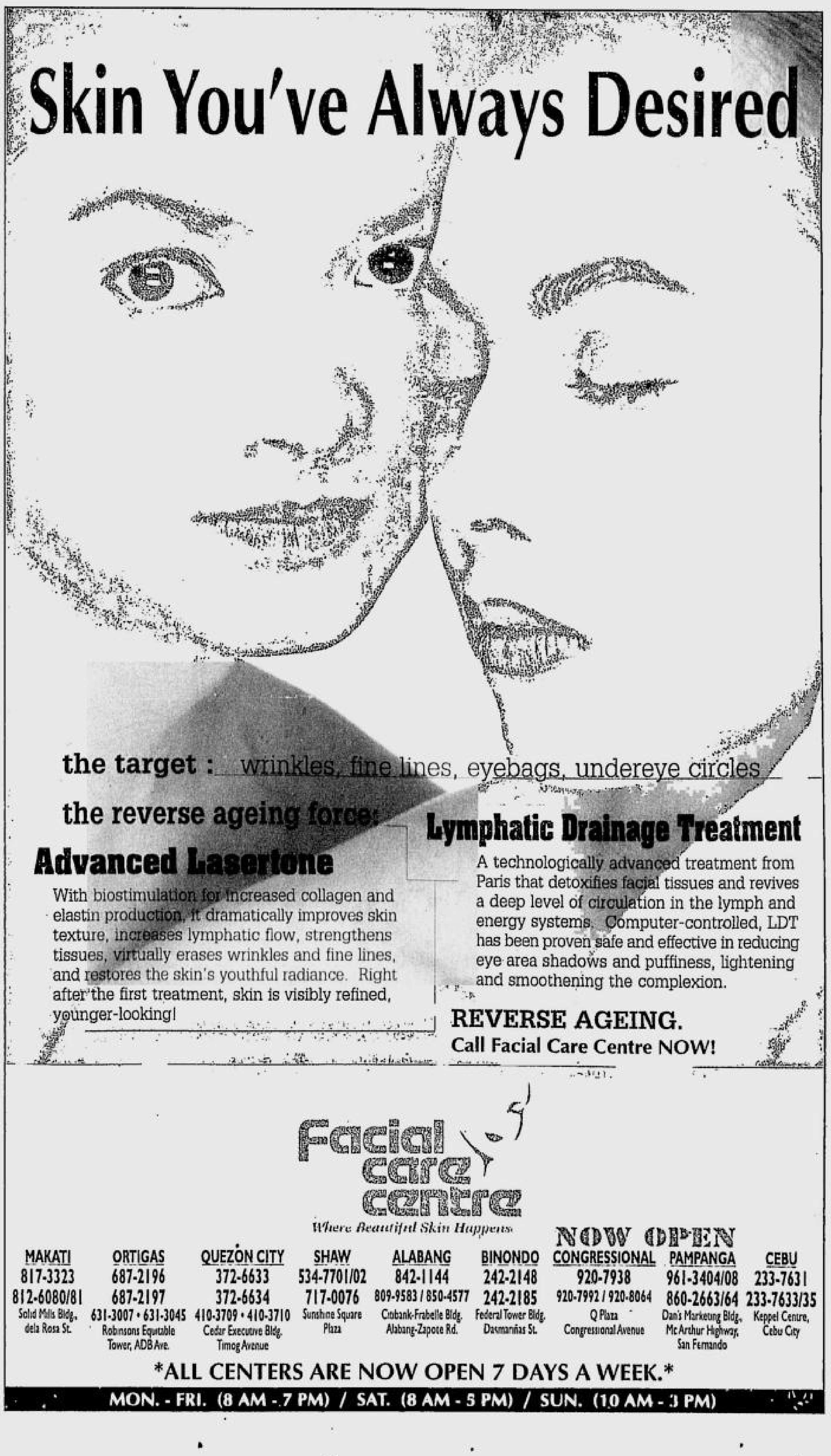
CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS - ON:

*Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking)* For Career Cooks: Nov. 13-16 or Dec. 4-7 (T-F) 9 a.m. -1 p.m. Coverage: menu planning, international standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc., applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P2,500.
*Basic Baking*: Nov. 14-16 or Dec. 5-7 (W-F) 1:30-5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2.000.
*Cooking I (Basic Cooking)* For Messman, Stewards and Beginners: Nov. 20-23 (T-F) 1:30-5p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables. pasta, meats and poultry dishes: Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P 2,200.

EVENING SESSIONS:

*Integrated Workshop on Waitering & Bartending*: Evening class: Nov. 21, 22, 23 (W-F) 5:45- 9 p.m. or Day class: Nov. 27, 28, 29 (T-Th) 1:30-5 p.m. Coverage: Creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting. Suggested selling techniques, meeting, greeting and seating of guests; Use of magic words; Order taking; Table setting standards (American, Russian and French style); Setting up service station and checkpoint; Serving beverage and entree; Bartending basics; Cocktail mixing and garnish; and Personality Enhancement. P2,000
*Catering*: Nov. 21, 22, 23 (W-F) 5:45- 9 p.m. Portion Control, Costing, Inventory, Table Layout & Equipment Sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes: Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All-Meat Paella and special Gulaman dessert. P1,500.

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road). Makati City or call tel. **892-1185 or 892-5011** loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*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